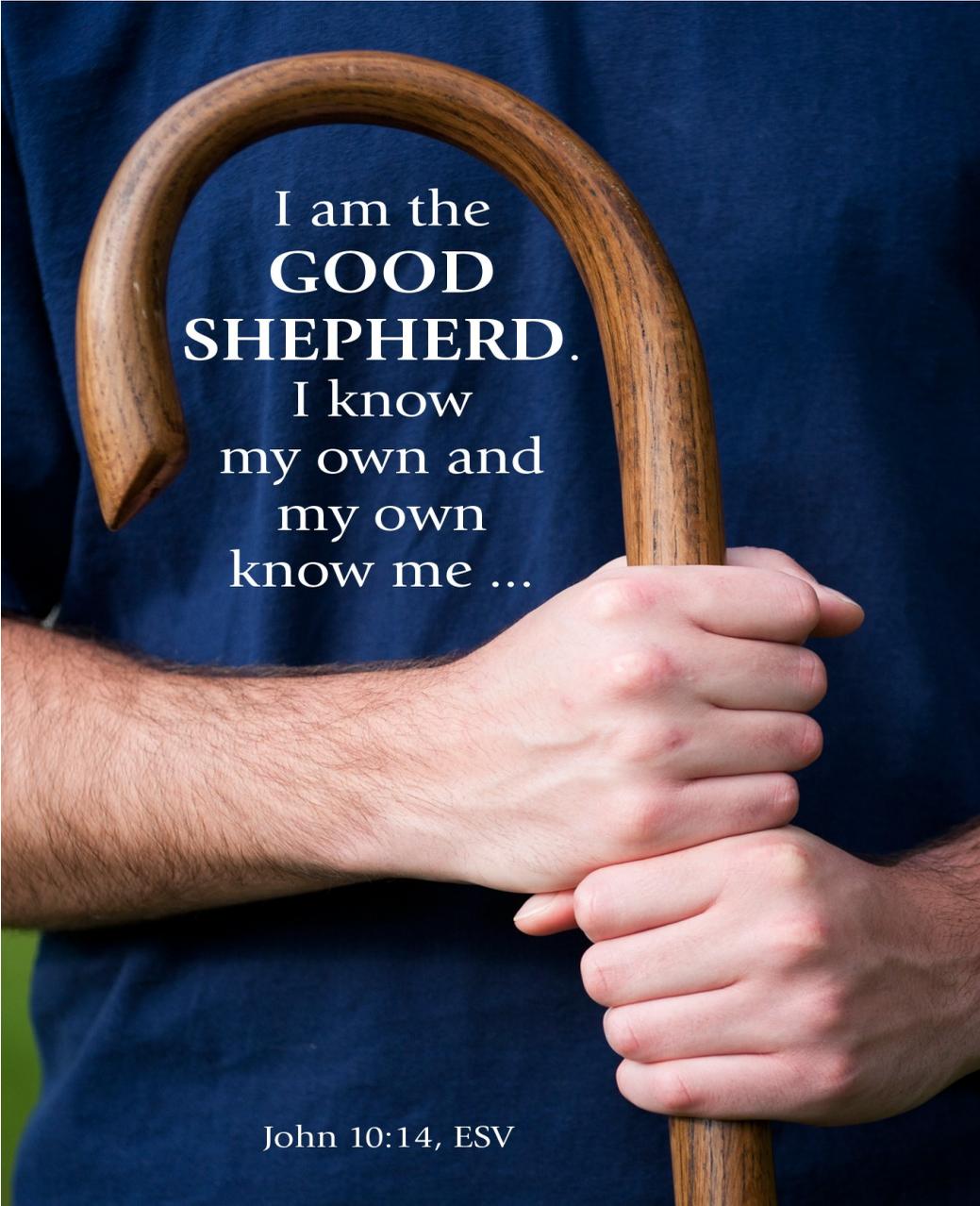


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



I am the
GOOD
SHEPHERD.

I know
my own and
my own
know me ...

John 10:14, ESV

6 p.m. Sat., April 24, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., April 25, 2021
Sermon "What is This?" 1 John 3:16-24



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(6 p.m. Sat., April 24, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., April 25, 2021)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Nick Gunn Team

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat., Liz Sanders; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Dallas Schulz

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER We hear so many mixed messages of what love is. Popular songs from the past decades or even more contemporary ones tell of what love can and should be; poems, memes, and other influences also are commonly read and seen; even our own emotions and feelings strive to tell us what love is and should feel like. Despite all these mixed messages, our Lord tells us how we are to know real and perfect love. In our Epistle we hear, "By this we know love, that Jesus laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16). Today, we focus on the fact that as our Good Shepherd, Jesus has laid down His life for His sheep. By that sacrifice on the cross and Easter victory, we can rejoice in a perfect love that lasts and an unconditional love that forgives as our Good Shepherd continues to guide, lead, and direct us through all our days.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

Hymn of Invocation

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

The Wave of Fellowship

LSB 524 vs. 1-4

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: By this we know love,

C: that He laid down His life for us.

P: "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.

C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

C: And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 23; John 10:11*

P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

C: Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

C: We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint 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.

C: As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ's laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Risen Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. They are Yours, and nothing will snatch them from Your hand. In the love You've shown and the perfect love we know through Your Spirit, empower Your flock to reach

others, that all may be guided by Your shepherding grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Reading Acts 4:1–12 (*Peter and John witness before the council.*)

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,

²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power

or by what name did you do this?”

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.
adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

C: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

The Epistle Lesson 1 John 3:16–24 (*Love one another.*)

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before

him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love

one another, just as he has commanded us. | abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

C: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel John 10:11–18 (*Jesus the Good Shepherd*)

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

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

The Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

Sermon

“What is This?”

1 John 3:16-24

Catechism

Explanation of the First Article

P: Shepherds provide for all the needs of their flock. Out of His love, our creating God provides not only for our spiritual needs of faith and forgiveness, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social well-being. Believing in God the Father as creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, which we confess together:

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

(stand as you are able)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

You are the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: For the times we fear our enemies and the powers against us, remind us that we belong to You and no one can snatch us from Your hand. We bring before the Lord the part of Your flock here in this place and others whom we love in their time of need, especially Carol Draube. Carry them as lambs in a shepherd's arms through the difficult paths ahead. Give all wisdom to know the faithful path we are to take, and shepherd us through every trial, trouble, and temptation; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Give us courage that we not live in captivity to our fears; guide those who lead us in this and every land; provide peace, justice, and freedom for people everywhere. In our busy days, give us time to reflect upon the goodness of God and to experience joy in the security and peace You provide us, that we find contentment and peace in You; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and the public workers who keep our communities safe. Defend us from our enemies, and teach us to rely on Your provision, the true protector of us all; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: That we do not forget those in need but share with all the Lord has entrusted to us and to display the kind of love shown and known that has no end; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: That we recall the saints of old, who put their trust in the Lord, that we also be found

faithful when He returns in glory; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Be with those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries this week that they remain faithful to your Word including: Rodney Lantis, Pam Schulz, Andria Worden, Jodi Becks, Erik Hill, Marcia Shook, Adam Wagner, Kelly Winegar, Steven Benson, Ericka Berger, Alyna Burke, Kyleigh Ford, Sue Munson, Krista Roscovius, Gabbie Schweigert, and Jim Titus, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box up front.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Psalm 25:1-3a—In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Offertory Hymn

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction 1 John 3:16a; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; Numbers 6:24–26

P: By this we know love,

C: that He laid down His life for us.

P: “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Closing Hymn

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

Silent Prayer and Postlude

What is “THIS?”

Text: 1 John 3:16–24

Date:04/25/21

Verse to Remember:

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Points to Ponder:

1. 1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called _____; and so we are.

2. What do we know about love?

Love of self apart from God leads to _____.

“This is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should _____” (1 Jn 3:11)

3. What is “THIS?” 1 John 3:16 - “By “**THIS**” we know love”

A. that He laid down His life for us,

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd _____ his life for the sheep.

B. and we ought to _____ for the brothers.

If a person receives Jesus’ love, he must love others.

It is because _____ laid down His life for me that I have the ability to lay down my life for others.