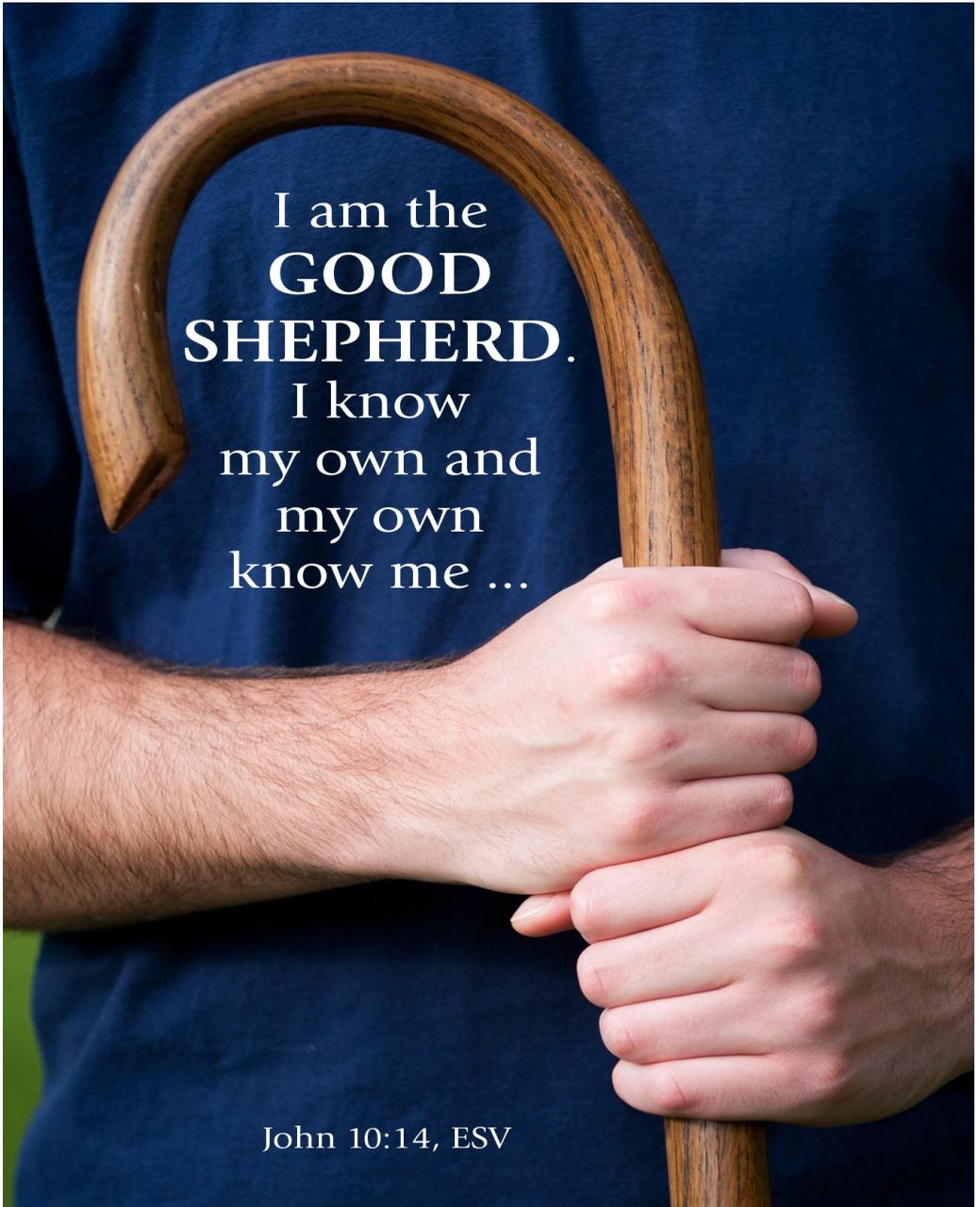


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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I am the
**GOOD
SHEPHERD.**
I know
my own and
my own
know me ...

John 10:14, ESV

10:45 a.m. Sunday, 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 SUNDAYH OF EASTER

10:45 a.m. Sunday, April 25, 2021

Servants of God's House Today:

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

Praise Team Accompanist: Doris Hill

Ushers: Tim Draube Team

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

Reader: Coleen Reich

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 in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation

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.

Opening Song

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise, Your name. O Lord, we magnify Your name,
Prince of Peace, Mighty God, O Lord God Almighty. (Repeat)

(Music by Michael W. Smith, Fred Bock Music Company, Alexandria House, Copyright 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co., used by permission LicenSing License #11440148 and 20162974)

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.

First Lesson 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."

Second 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.

²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments 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.

Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel

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

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."

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.

Children's Message

The Song of Instruction "The Wonderful Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss. And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an off'ring far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;

All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, J.D. Walt & Jesse Reeves, worshiptogether.com songs/
sixsteps Music, used by permission CCLI 11440148 and 20162974)

The Word “What is This?” 1 John 3:16-24

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

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 upfront.

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 “Revelation Song”

1. Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain
Holy, Holy, is He
Sing a new song, to him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat
(Chorus)
Holy, Holy, Holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of Kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You...
2. Clothed in rainbows, of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be
To You the only wise King (Chorus)
3. Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name
Jesus your name is power
Breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery... (Chorus)
(Song writer: Jennie Lee Riddle, Gateway Create Publishing ©Copyright

The Prayer of the Church

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, Lord in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song "Glorious Day"

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
one day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, dwelt among men, my example is He.
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us, His glory revealed.

(Chorus) Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising He justified, freely, forever.
One day He's coming; O glorious day, O glorious day.

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain. One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected, bearing our sins, my Redeemer is he.
The hand that healed nations stretched out on a tree and took the nails from me.
(chorus)

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer.
One day the stone rolled away from the door.
Then He arose, over death He had conquered. Now is ascended, my Lord evermore.
Death could not hold Him; the grave could not keep Him from rising again.
Living, He loved me, dying, He saved me, buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising He justified, freely forever.
One day He's coming; O glorious Day, O glorious day, glorious day.

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming.
One day the skies with His glories will shine.
Wonderful day my beloved one is bringing. My Savior Jesus is mine. (chorus)
(Words & music by Mark Hall & Michael Bleecker, arr. by Carol Tornquist, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

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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.