



Sunday, April 25, 2021

Easter 4

Worship focus: *Celebrate Jesus' Victory: As our Good Shepherd*

HYMN

432 – "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

(The "Amen" is sung after the last hymn only.)

**1. I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.**

**2. Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**3. Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.**

Please stand.

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – Acts 20:28-32

Jesus appoints men to shepherd his flock until he returns. The Apostle Paul tells the shepherds to care for the flock by warning and protecting them from the “wolves” who distort God’s truth.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. ³² Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23

Spoken responsively

P: The Lord is my shepherd,

C: I shall not be in want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

C: he leads me beside quiet waters.

P: He restores my soul;

C: he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

C: for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies,

C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Peter tells those who shepherd Christ's flock that they should not do it for selfish reasons, but they will want to serve willingly setting an example of humble Christian service for the flock.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.

Please stand.

GOSPEL – John 10:11-18

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep by giving up his own life to save the life of his sheep.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY 360 – “The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want” (verses 1-3)

**1. The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**

**2. My soul he doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.**

**3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

SERMON

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

¹² Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³ I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia. ¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God. ³ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Theme: A Pleasing Aroma

1. An unchanging Word.
2. A life-changing message.

Please stand.

HYMN

360 – “The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want” (verses 5 & 6)

**4. My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.**

**5. Goodness and mercy, all my life,
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.**

OFFERING

Offering plates are near the exits for you to place your thank-offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

P: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

158 – “I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again” (verses 1 & 4)

1. I am content! My Jesus lives again,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the law of God for me;
God's wrath he has appeased.
Since he in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!

4. I am content! Lord, set me ever free
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content! Amen.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Matt Nowak
Office: 419-326-4402
Cell: 419-302-5271
Email: pastormattn@gmail.com

Church/School Secretary
School Office: 419-326-4685
Email: tlsoffice@tlcienera.org
Website: tlcienera.org

GREETERS

today are:

John & Janet Weihrauch – Early Service
Jerry Beagle – Late Service

Next Sunday:

Barb Roidt & Ruth Marquart – Early Service
Charlotte Brown – Late Service

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE (week of April 18, 2021)

Total Worship Attendance: 199; Early: 88; Late: 111; Adult Bible Study: 23; Teen Bible Study: 3; Mornings with Mommy: 39 . On-line worship service views for April 11 were 43.

MONEY COUNTERS for this morning through May 8 are the members of Clark Inniger’s Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, May 9 will be the members of Ron Bower’s Undershepherd group.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (April 25 – May 2)

TODAY **Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30**; WELS Connection; Adult Bible Study 9:20; Teen Bible Class 9:20; TLS Field Day 2:00.

MON Newsletter Articles due.

WED On-line catechism 6:30; Handbell practice 6:30.

THU Good Samaritan Communion 11:00.

SUN **Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30**; Confirmation Day; Communion; Examination between services (no Bible Study).

SCHOOL CALENDAR

WED Chapel 8:20.

THE WELS CONNECTION will be shown after each service today.

THANK YOU, Vicar Wenzel, for sharing the message of God's unchanging Word with us today!

THE ANNUAL TLS/Jenera Field Day is today, Sunday, April 25th, beginning at 2:00pm. Come on out and joint the fun! Masks for spectators are preferred, but not required. Athletes will not be required to wear masks while competing but encouraged while not. Please respect the social distancing guidelines. All younger children are to be under the supervision of their parents.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL is scheduled for Friday, April 30th at 3:30pm. Photos will be taken at this time.

CONFIRMATION will take place on Sunday, May 2nd, during the late service. Examination of the confirmands will take place in the sanctuary between services. There will not be Bible study.

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME: Do your kids need a place to get some energy out? Join us for a FREE open gym for all preschool aged children in the school gym on Monday, May 10 from 10:00-11:00 AM. We will have balls to play with, ride-on toys, mats to crawl/roll around on, a mini-trampoline, infant toys, and lots of space to run around and play.



Our school is in desperate need of full time bus drivers to drive morning and afternoon routes each school day throughout the school year. We are also in need of substitute bus drivers. If you are interested in either position, please contact the school office or any school board member. Drivers need not be a Trinity member, so if you know of someone who may be interested, please share with them.

TUESDAY EVENING SERVICES: Trinity Elders are looking for feedback regarding our summertime midweek services. Please contact any elder with your thoughts. Elders are Ray Curth, Jamey Rausch, Bill Hull, Dan Webb, Gordon Nessler, and Ron Bower. You may also email the school at tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org or Pastor Nowak at pastormattn@gmail.com.

A FREE-WILL OFFERING will be collected *today*, in honor of Mrs. Traci Hummer, who is leaving Trinity School at the end of the school year. Thank you, Mrs. Hummer for all of your passion and dedication over the last 12 years!

● Another free-will offering will be collected for our 7th & 8th grade teacher, Mr. Sam Koepsell, on May 16th. Mr. Koepsell is also leaving us at the end of the school year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School lesson packets for three-year-olds, containing lessons 26-30 are available for pick up in the narthex on the left side of the Sunday School table. Students in Preschool through eighth grade may find lessons-on-video at nph.net/ss-at-home. Lesson packets that go with the videos are on the table in the narthex. The Bible lesson for today/this week is #2, "The Parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus." May God bless us and our children as we hear and read these lessons from the Bible.

PRESCHOOL POSITION in Findlay: Immanuel's Preschool Director, Becky Lange, will be leaving, as her husband, Rev. Paul Lange, accepted a Call to Wisconsin. We are looking for a local person who has an education degree and is a WELS or ELS member to take on this part-time position. If you may be interested, please call our office at 419.422.8209 for more information.

FLOWERS, BIRDS, AND MOTHER'S DAY: Join us to celebrate springtime and mothers on Monday, May 3 or Tuesday, May 4, from 9:30-10:30. Bring your infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners to explore educational and fun activities together at Mornings with Mommy. Make a bird feeder, water flowers, sort feathers, and build a bouquet. Register online at tlcjenera.org or call 262-391-7994.

LAST CHANCE!! Get your raffle tickets NOW! Due to CoVID, the 7th & 8th grade classes will not be able to take their biannual Chicago Trip. They will be taking a 3 day educational trip to southern Ohio. They are hosting a meat package raffle to raise funds. Tickets are \$10 and the drawing will be held on April 30, 2021. The package includes 72 pounds of beef- various steaks, roasts and hamburger. If you would like to purchase tickets, please see any 7th or 8th grade student/parent, Mr. Koepsell, or by calling the school office, 419-326-4685. Thank you for your continued support!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK will be May 3rd through May 7th. It's been a difficult year for our Trinity teachers and staff. Everyone has taken on extra duties and made extra effort to make this abnormal year more normal for our students. Let's show them some love! Let's let them know that they are valued and truly appreciated. Pray for them, drop them a line or a card, or send a treat, showing them our thoughts and appreciation for all they do.

PRAYERS OF HEALING are requested for Wilda von Stein, who is recovering at home from an injury. Please remember Wilda and all of our members who are homebound or in nursing homes.

PLEASE REMEMBER, also, in your prayers the family of David Boehm, who was called home to heaven this past week. There will be a private memorial service at a later date.

CALL RESPONSE

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

We are writing to inform you that after much prayerful consideration on how I can best serve our Lord, we have decided to return our calls to serve at Trinity. We are very thankful for your many prayers and words of encouragement. We are thankful for the time you took to answer our questions and we feel blessed to have learned more about your congregation and ministry at Jenera. Our prayers, and those of our family, are with you as you continue to share God's Word. Our ministry at Salem is where we feel we belong at this time and we know that the Lord will continue to bless both congregations. Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers and God Bless your continued work in His Kingdom.

In Christ's Service,

Anthony and Pamela Perry

*The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his names sake.
Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for thou art with me...
I am comforted.*

Psalm 23:1-4

