

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
DAILY WALKING WITH CHRIST - WEEK 4  
CELEBRATION - CONFIRMATION / AFFIRMATION  
Pastor Christian Magnell, Pastor John R. Hanson  
April 21, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

COMMON THREAD

*“Who you gonna call?” goes the line from the movie “Ghostbusters” theme song. That is silly stuff, but the question is nevertheless a serious one. We are able to successfully call upon no other name than Jesus when it comes to being saved from eternal condemnation and death. Even when we walk through that death’s valley, we who believe in that name have no need to fear. Even when our heart condemns us—usually because the law is accusing us of sins—we have confidence before God and peace. Why? Because we keep the greatest commandment: that we believe in him who laid down his life for us. Who else would you call?*

CALL TO WORSHIP (8:00)

J CREW

THEME AND VERSE

**Christ Jesus, our risen Lord, we dare to believe in the things we cannot see: In your love for us, in your love for those around us, in the hope of eternal life in you. We dare to believe that another world is possible, that suffering can end, that we can play a part in your kingdom. We dare to believe in heaven on earth, in the light breaking through, in forgiven lives made new, and in your love for us. Christ Jesus, our risen Lord, we believe!**

***“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11***

ANTHEM (8:00)

PSALM 100 KIDS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

11 {Jesus said,} “I 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.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

**the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Let us embrace God's saving mercy.

**Remind us, loving God, that no person is too unimportant to receive your attention, and no personal flaw or sin is too ugly or large to receive your forgiveness. Remind us that it is in our weaknesses where sincere goodness can take root. Remind us of the power of your word when we think breaking your bread is only a routine. God of untiring mercy and abundant grace, deal with us not as we think best but as you see best! Bring us to a repentance which marks those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!**

We are assured: "Here is real love; not our love for God but God's love for us in the giving of his Son to be the remedy for the corruption of our sins." Remember your baptism! Through the grace of Christ Jesus, forgiveness and release are ours. Therefore ask, receive, and be eternally thankful! Jesus is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN

*"Sanctuary"*

O, Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

O, Lord, please use me as your servant to bring glory unto you;  
Purchased at a price, a living sacrifice, this my prayer, Lord, to you.

O, Lord, please teach me to be holy, make my new heart beat for you.  
Use your fire to consume me, I want to be holy like you.

CCLI Song # 24140 CCLI License # 1713417

SERVICE OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (10:30)

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Each candidate will make a statement about the faith they will claim as their own. Today, in this Confirmation, we will all actively join the students as we restate our commitment to the core beliefs of the Christian faith with the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED - Do you believe...?

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

... I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. 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.

PLACEMENT OF THE STOLE AND INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (parents and sponsors are invited to come forward as the Confirmand comes for the blessing).

WELCOME / SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Acts 4:1-12

1As {Peter and John} 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 READING: 1 John 3:16-24

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 God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

HYMN

*“You Never Let Go”*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
Your perfect love is casting out fear; and even when I'm caught in the middle  
Of the storms of this life, I won't turn back, I know you are near.  
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me, and if my God is with me,  
Whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?  
Oh no, you never let go, through the calm and through the storm,  
Oh no, you never let go in ev'ry high and ev'ry low,  
Oh no, you never let go, Lord, you never let go of me.

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on  
A glorious light beyond all compare. And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes, we'll live to know you here on the earth.  
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me, and if my God is with me,  
Whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?  
Oh no, you never let go through the calm and through the storm,  
Oh no, you never let go in ev'ry high and ev'ry low,  
Oh no, you never let go, Lord, you never let go of me.

CCLI Song # 4674166 CCLI License # 1713417

SERMON - “It’s About a Real Present Relationship!”

HYMN

*“What a Friend We have in Jesus”*

Green # 439

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear -  
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged - take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness - take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you wilt find a solace there.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD’S PRAYER

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give thanks, O God, for your life seen in creation, revealed in Jesus, renewed in the resurrection and available to us now. Thank you for touching us with your life through bread and wine; for joining our lives with yours through Jesus; and for renewing our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Filled with life, we now offer ourselves to be bring love into the world. Touched by resurrection, we pledge to resist death wherever we find it. Filled with hope, we embrace the promise of eternity and the call to make it known. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May the blessing of God our Father, his Son, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit be among you and give you strength within to meet the days ahead.

**Amen.**

The busy world awaits our compassion. Sometimes we will give our best yet fail. Other times we will succeed in spite of our stumbling. Go gladly, daring to succeed or fail to the glory of God.

**Amen!**

Jesus said: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am now sending you." The help of the saving Christ, the wisdom of the Living God, and the support of the loving Spirit remains with us now and always.

**Thanks be to God!**

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Listening for the Promise Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 21, 2024 — "By what power or by what name did you do this?" - Acts 4:7b

Important people are mentioned in today's passage. They were men of power and position; they were from the high priestly family. They were accompanied by the rulers, elders and scribes. These men made up the Jerusalem Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jews. The court was mostly made up of Sadducees, men from a sect of Judaism that did not believe in resurrection. Though some Jews believed in a doctrine of resurrection, the Sadducees adamantly rejected it. This is why the disciples' preaching was particularly disturbing to them. They could not allow the idea of resurrection to gain popularity among the people. They had to put a stop to it, so Peter and John were arrested.

The catalyst for this arrest was the healing of the lame beggar who asked Peter and John for alms. Instead of money, Peter commanded the lame beggar to walk, by the name of Jesus. Peter gave the man a new life and then told the amazed crowds that it was not by his power or ability that the beggar was healed; the healing came by the power of the one they had crucified, the one God raised from the dead. Peter told the people, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out." He spoke about the forgiveness that comes from Jesus Christ.

The court asked Peter and John about the power and name they invoked for the healing. Peter answered, "If we've been arrested because we kindly helped a cripple, then know this: it is Jesus' name that healed the man." Jesus is the source of their power. The Sanhedrin might have let them go, except they did more than just heal the man. They offered forgiveness of sins, the same blasphemous crime that Jesus committed.

The Sanhedrin, especially the high priests, rejected the capstone of everything the disciples preached: the resurrection of Jesus which gave Him the authority to transform the world. This was the crime for

which they had been arrested. The proclamation that Jesus is the only way to salvation took away the power of the Jewish leaders; that is why they destroyed Jesus in the first place and why the world still threatens the faithful today. We need not fear because Jesus continues to be the power and authority behind the forgiveness that blots out our sins.

Psalm 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. 3 He 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. 5 You 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.