

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 21, 2024

Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

The flowers on the nave altar are given by Anne Grayr and her daughters JuliAnne Fisher and Brenda Dominick and in loving memory of George Grayr.

The roses on the nave altar are given by Genny and Bill Davenport and in thanksgiving for the birth of their great granddaughter, Riley Davenport; born March 14, 2024; and also given by David and Elaine Backhurst and in thanksgiving for the birth of their grandson, Oscar Colby Backhurst; born on April 13, 2024.

**Hymn 184, Christ The Lord Is Risen Again! Christ Has Broken Every Chain!**

THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

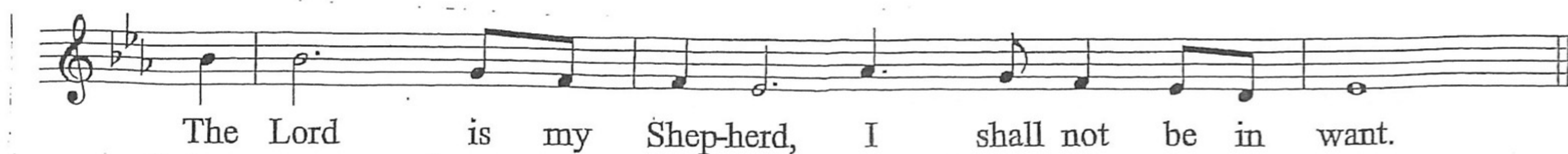
In this story from the Acts of the Apostles Peter and John, having cured a crippled man, are called to account before the high Jewish council. Referring to scripture, Peter speaks of the stone rejected by the builders, now the cornerstone of the new faith.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone. 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. Thanks be to God.



Psalm 23. The Lord is shepherd and guide. God is present in the time of danger and is generous and merciful. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing together at **R.**



He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. **R.** 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. 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. **R.** 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. **R.**

### A Reading from the First Letter of John

In our epistle lesson we learn that the followers of Jesus are to emulate his love by laying down their lives for one another. They will know that he abides within them and they in him, and that the Spirit has been given them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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. **Thanks be to God.**

*all stand – Hymn 205, vs. 3*

**Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector



## Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 the People

In joy and hope let us pray to God, who has raised our Lord Jesus from the dead.

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, O Lord, we pray;

**Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That needs be met for those who lack food, work or shelter, O Lord, we pray ; **R.**

That through the gift of peace, war and famine may cease through all the world, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may reveal the light of his presence to the suffering, the sick, and the dying;

to comfort and strengthen them, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

O Lord, we pray; **R.**

*Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. Opportunity is extended to those present to offer their own petitions.*

In our Diocese, we remember the clergy and people of: St. Michael's, Lansing; and St. Paul's, Brighton.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember the Anglican Church of Australia.

Our parish prayer list: Christopher, Matt, Bill Steiner, Richard Simonds, Karen Schulze, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Nina, Vicki.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Shepherd of all, you laid down your life for the love of us all. Lead us to the place of abundant life, hear all our prayers and forgive us all our sins; that we may rightly offer our lives in service to our neighbors; through Jesus, our guide and pastor we pray. **Amen.**



## HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory Hymn 334, Praise The Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing; Worship, Thanks, Devotion Voicing

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you that around Abraham you gathered your flock . . .  
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ is truly raised from the dead,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*After all have received, please stand.*

God of steadfast love; Watch over the Church you have redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share  
in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

May Jesus, our Good Shepherd, always lead us to pastures of life and light;  
and the blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be among and with us, now and for ever. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Hymn 645, The King Of Love My Shepherd Is Whose Goodness Faileth Never

## A JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL!

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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