

## APOSTLES' CREED

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** L) Lord in your Mercy C) Hear our Prayer.

**SHARING THE PEACE** L) The peace of Christ be with you all C) And also with you.

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY** *"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"* ELW #883

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell; come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make.  
We are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

## BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

**SENDING HYMN** *"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"* ELW #539

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace,  
that evil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your word  
and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness among us, precious Light;  
your truth direct and keep us from error's gloomy night.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;  
let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your word.
- 5 Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love;  
grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

**THE DISMISSAL** L) Go in peace. Serve the Lord!. C) Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

# *Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches*



**Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 21st, 2024**

*Interim Pastor: Kent Stillson*

*Organist: Lizzy Dahl (Benton) Paul Mesner (Willow Creek)*

## PRELUDE

**EASTER GREETING:** L) Christ is Risen! C) He is risen, indeed!

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** ELW pages 94-96  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:*****“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”******ELW #634***

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
- 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
- 3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call  
the God incarnate, man divine and crown him Lord of all.  
The God Incarnate, man divine and crown him Lord of all.
- 4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23**

L) The Lord is my shepherd;

**C) I shall not want.**

L) The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures

**C) and leads me beside still waters.**

L) You restore my soul, O Lord,

**C) and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

L) Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

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

L) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**C) you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

L) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**C) and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.****SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3: 16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

L) Word of God, Word of Life ***All) Thanks be to God.******Music while children come to the front: “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”***

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world;

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight;

Jesus loves the little children of the world!

Jesus died for all the children, all the children of the world;

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight;

Jesus died for all the children of the world!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****GOSPEL John 10: 1-11**L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.*****SERMON –*****“The Good Shepherd”*****Pastor Kent****HYMN OF THE DAY “The King of My Love My Shepherd Is” ELW #502 v1-4**

1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth  
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.