**4th sunday of easter- april 30, 2023, zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For thousands of years, the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They aided the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**GATHERING SONG*God Is Here!* (ELW 526)**

1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.  
  
2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.  
  
3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.  
  
4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

**aNNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 4th Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2023. Cooler weather is still with us, lots of rain this coming week, but temps are creeping up.

Next week we welcome Assistant to the Bishop Adam Snook to Zion, Pastor Adam will be preaching, he will also join us for our BBQ lunch after, so if you have any burning questions for him, I am sure he would be happy to answer them. A reminder to bring a salad or dessert to share. Freewill offering

All are welcome to attend a community hymn sing at St. Mark’s Wellesley, on May 4 @ 7:00. A freewill offering will be gathered for the Wellesley Food Cupboard.

May 13 is our cleaning bee and arbour day. More info is in your bulletin.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 213)**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE- glory to god (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

A reading from Acts.

*Today’s reading is a description of life in the community following Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God’s people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

42[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
 43Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23*The Lord's My Shepherd* (ELW 778)**

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.  
He leadeth me, 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;  
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;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.  
  
4 My table thou hast richly spread  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
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;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

19It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. 21For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.  
 22“He committed no sin,  
  and no deceit was found in his mouth.”  
23When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 1“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.  
 7So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW 502)**

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.  
  
5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!  
6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*.*United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.*A brief silence.*

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering from illness or injury in any way *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Marlene, Felix, Hilde, Randy, Elaine, Brian, Gary, Debbie G, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**offering prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING- salvation belongs… (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Let us pray.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor

and for making us into a people of your own.

With all the saints who have received your Word we worship you, holy God.

We praise you for your eternal Word, for conquering the force of death,

and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord.

For your Word alive among us, we praise you, living God.

Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us, that led by your Word

we may honor your earth and its many peoples and serve all who are in need.

For your Word animating our Easter life, we bless you, loving God.

All worship, praise, and blessing be to you, Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life, today and forever. **Amen.**

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**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy

Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.

**SENDING SONG*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (BRADBURY)* (ELW 789)**

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us; we are yours.  
  
2 We are yours; in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.  
  
3 You have promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.  
  
4 Early let us seek your favor,  
early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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