

*I am the  
good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 188 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors.

The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

**Parents**, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St.  
Paul's Lutheran...

[stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)

## Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 21, 2024 Holy Communion 10:30 AM

**PRELUDE** *Piano Duet* *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* *Arr. Kevin Olson*  
*Primo: James Palmer* *Secondo: Harrison Palmer*

### *Stand*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 481)*



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

## PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Psalm 5	“From the time that I wake up”
Psalm 23	“The Lord is my shepherd”
Palm 1	“When I listen to you O God”
Psalm 46	“When the ground starts to shake”
Matthew 5 highlights	“Jesus went up a high mountain”

**READING**    **1 John 3:16-24**    (*back cover*)

**RESPONSE**    Pastor Reep

**ST. JOHN 11**

**A RESURRECTION PLAY**

***“Lazarus, Come Out!”***

The songs and music are adapted from *“Singing the Good News”* by Pamela Hughes

*“Weep with Jesus”*  
*“The Light of God”*  
*“Come Out, Lazarus”*  
*“New Life”*

Cast in order of appearance

Host—Rylan Hake	Religious Leaders—Naomi Patterson
Narrator—Gwendolyn Bastian	Colton Hake
Mary—Gwendolyn Lehr	Jordyn Lehr
Martha—Isabella Lehr	Frederick Jones
Jesus—Gus Lipp	Samantha Jacobs
Disciples—Melanie Patterson	Sophia Lehr
Theodore Waddail	Iris Ericson
Caroline McComas	Vera Lipp
Ezra Erickson	Lazarus—Henry Garber
Monte Lipp	Supporting the cast—Caden Hutchinson
	Adalyn Hutchinson

*Stand*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen Christ let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, our Good Shepherd, empower us through worship and make us serve bearing witness to the gospel. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, to be better stewards of the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Lead us to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to your wisdom. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems.

Guide us to actively care for people who are vulnerable. (Especially we pray for...)

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

On this Preschool Sunday we give thanks for 60 years of service to the York community, for faithful teachers and staff, and for the opportunity to provide early childhood education in this religious setting. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS** Organ *Have No Fear, Little Flock* Mark Sedio

Stand  
OFFERTORY

*Come to the Table (ELW 481)*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.



## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE *Sung by Pastor and congregation*

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering

in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,

in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,

to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,

to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,

we lift this bread and cup before you,

giving you thanks that you have made us worthy

to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever.

**Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

### **FRACTION RITE**

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

*Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

### **COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist. We receive communion by intinction today.

*1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*

*2. The Pastor will give the host, communicant dips the host in the chalice*

*3. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*



# COMMUNION CANTICLE

## *This is the Feast*

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo-ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:



Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and strength, and

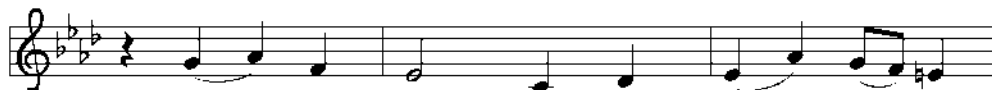
Bless-ing and hon-or, glo-ry and might be to



hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Refrain*



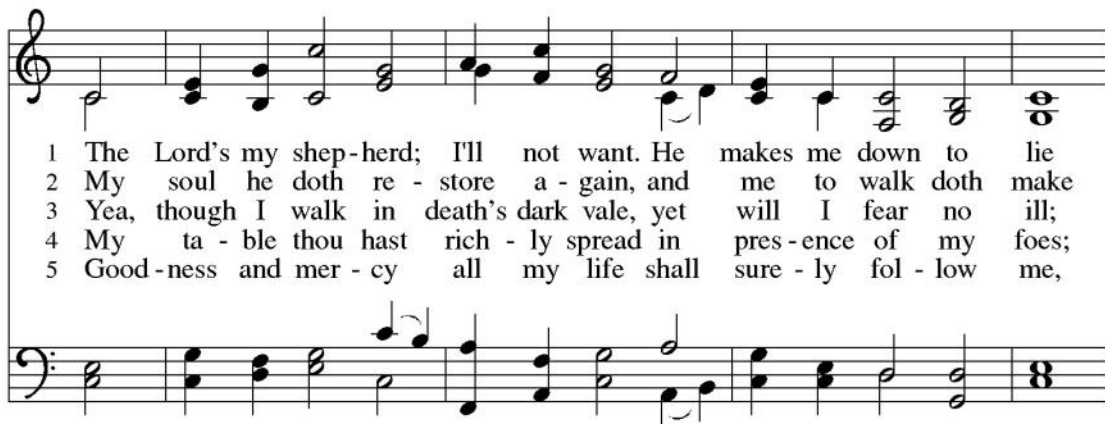
3 For the Lamb who was slain has be-



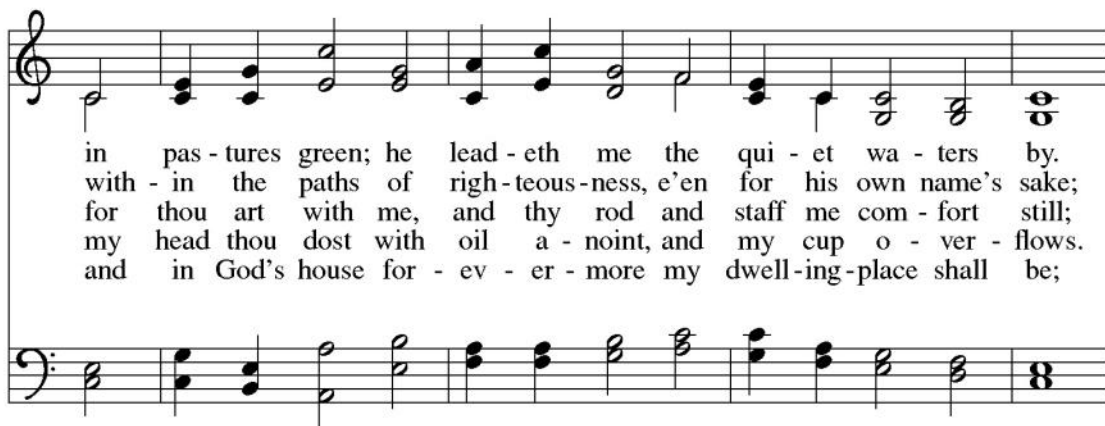
gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

*Refrain*

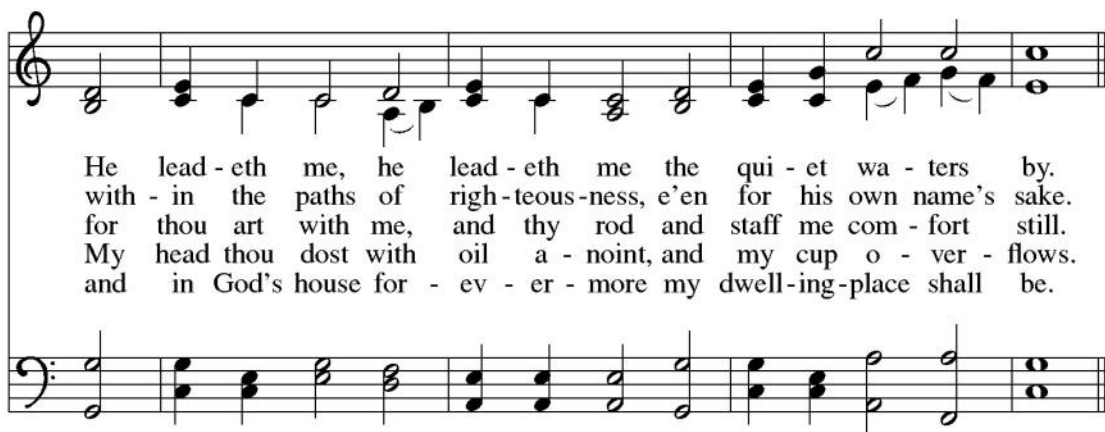
## HYMN

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


1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## HYMN

*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (ELW 452)*



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.



## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*This Joyful Eastertide*

*Emma Lou Diemer*

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In appreciation of our Preschool Staff  
in this our 60th year of service.

Director: Deb Becker—36 years

Assistant Director: Allison Lehr—5 years

Staff: Nancy Rost—23 years

Joann Passriello—11 years

Lori Stambaugh—13 years

Julianna Jones—1 year

Danielle Wolpert—1 year

Johanna Wagner—1 year

Custodial: Craig Snyder—1 year

Please join us for a reception following the service. Brown bag lunches are available in the Good Shepherd Room. Child friendly snacks are provided in the preschool classrooms.

**Serving the Lord with Gladness**

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Comm. Assist	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild
4/21	8:00 AM	Jennifer Ports	Denise Rider	Ann Ulrich		Axel & Ann Ulrich	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Tim & Melissa Yakim
	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Tony Cave	Jaclyn Kinkella		Deb & Larry Becker, Peggy & Carl Jacobs	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Darren Smith	Larry & Janet Moore

**This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon–Thurs 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 21 Preschool Sunday**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
Preschool/Children's Easter Play
- 4:30 PM Tanzania Mtg—Christ Hall
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

**Monday, April 22**

- 6:00 PM Christian Ed mtg—Youth Rm
- 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

**Tuesday, April 23**

- 9:30 AM Food Pantry
- 6:00 PM CREATE—Preschool—Grade 6
- 6:00 PM Property Committee—In-house

**Wednesday April 24**

- 10:00 AM Preschool w/ Pastor—Nave
- 10:30 Bible Study

**Thursday, April 25**

- 10:00 AM Preschool w/ Pastor—Nave
- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

**Sunday, April 28**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
- 3:00 PM Concert—Arsenal Duo  
Organ & Piano
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in celebration of Preschool Sunday and in honor of all of God's Children by Deb Becker*

## Announcements and Up-dates for the week April 21, 2024

**Benevolence Fund Applications** are available (bright green paper) or online by request from the church office. If you are seeking funding to support a need in our community and beyond, please complete and submit an application. We still have capacity for projects in 2024. We are currently soliciting applications for 2025.

**St. Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry.** Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has is in the Good Shepherd room for collections.

**Jackson Elementary School Summer Activities**—Through May 5<sup>th</sup> in the Good Shepherd Room you will find collection boxes for the Jackson Elementary students. Greatly appreciated would be the following items: **bubbles, jump ropes, flash cards, regular playing cards, sidewalk chalk, books, coloring books, activity books, crayons, colored pencils, and markers.** Many thanks.



**Children's Sermons Summer 2024**—. We are blessed to have families who faithfully bring their children to worship each week. A sign-up sheet attached to a clip board is located on the table in the Good Shepherd Room. Simply sign your name on the week you select. The themes and Biblical texts for each week are listed on the sign-up sheet. In advance, thank you for your time and consideration.

**Mother's Day Geranium Sale** The Auxiliary to SpiriTrust Lutheran of York is holding its annual Mother's Day Geranium Sale to benefit the residents of Kelly Drive and Sprenkle Drive Villages. Geraniums are available in red, white and salmon at a cost of \$5.00 per plant. Please contact Jennifer Ports at 443- 310-0897 or [jleigh36@gmail.com](mailto:jleigh36@gmail.com) to place an order.

Checks should be made payable to "Auxiliary to SpiriTrust Lutheran" and must be received by Wednesday, May 1. The flowers will be delivered to your home unless you make arrangements to obtain them at St. Paul's between 10:15 and 10:30 am on Saturday May 11th. Please see the order form on the bulletin board at the Springettsbury entrance for more information.



**The Mother's Day Elegant Desserts Bake Sale is only a month away!** Please contact Martina Uffelmann if you can help. A dessert sign-up sheet is available in the Good Shepherd Room. All proceeds will support the Mpuguso congregation and the Konde Diocese while our mission delegation is with them this June.

Just a reminder that if you participated in the preschool fundraiser, you can pick up your sub and sandwiches on Tuesday, May 7 from 11:30am-12:00pm or 6:00-6:30pm.

**Food Pantry News**—We need **canned soup, fruit, canned tuna!** Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. We are always in need of paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks. Contact Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-

The new pictorial directory has been sent and you should have received it in your e-mail. If you don't have a computer and e-mail or would like a paper directory, please contact the office at 717-843-8155 and a directory will be printed for you. Please check your information and if any corrections need to be made, please contact Patee. The reason for doing the directory in-house was that changes can easily be made and sent out to our members.



*You are invited to an*

**Ascension Day Service**  
**Thursday, May 9**  
**7:00 PM**

### **Upcoming Concerts at St. Paul's**

**Sunday, April 28      The Arsenal Duo (organ and piano) concert      3:00pm**  
Pittsburgh musicians Nathan Carterette (piano) and Edward Alan Moore (organ) have joined forces as The Arsenal Duo, presenting concerts that unite their respective instruments in a unique and spectacular fashion. They draw from a diverse repertoire, including works originally for piano and orchestra; works original to piano and organ; their own transcriptions; and solo offerings. Sponsored by York Chapter AGO

**Sunday, May 5      High School Choirs concert      3:00pm**  
We are delighted to host select singers from three of our local high schools; Central York, West York and Red Lion. This combined choral concert is a first for our area. Please plan to attend and support these musicians.

**Easter 4 B, 2024      Acts 4:5-12    1 John 3:16-24      St. John 10:11-18**

*“By what power or by what name did you do this?”* This is a great question if you are honestly interested in the response that may be given. If you are seeking a response: only to use for selfish gain, or to put forth your own agenda, or to gather material to use against someone at a later date, then such a question is problematic.

That is the situation in the first reading. Peter and John are taking it on the nose from the religious authorities for healing a man who was lame from birth. Not only that, the man was 40 years old. He had lived with the horrific ailment for what was nearing the average life expectancy. So the question is a great one if you are really honestly interested in the response.

*“By what power or by what name did you do this?”* You could ask this of me, or of the community of faith, in response to the baptisms of two children at the Vigil of Easter. Clearly the sacrament of Baptism is in the name of *“Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”* You could ask the same question of the rite of confession that most often is at the beginning of the Sunday liturgy. All though with that the response is stated clearly week after week *“As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority I 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.”* You could ask the same question about many different aspects of our life together; donating clothing to assist Union Lutheran with their clothing ministry, or food for our pantry, or summer activities and books for students at Jackson Elementary School, or why a mission delegation to Tanzania at this time, or why a summer intergenerational series on nurturing family stewardship. Some might lose sight and say *“well the congregation voted to do this at the annual meeting. Or you might respond the Congregation Council is taking charge of it.”* But it is all being done by the power of God, in the name of Christ Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the one in whom there is life and salvation. God is at work through these and other things that we might deem projects being carried out through human creatures who are bringing things to fruition, even what may seem like small gestures. *“By what power or by what name did you do this?”* The question is a great one if you are really honestly interested in the response.

In the first reading Peter responds. He is filled with the Spirit of God and he addresses the religious leaders. *“If we are questioned today about a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed...let it be known that his 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.”*

In the second reading *“By what power or by what name”* has to do with the way the Christian community lives, not just by words or speech, but in truth and action. Such love for one another is carried out by the power of the Spirit that the risen Lord has poured out on them. Because of this power and name help is given to sisters and brothers who are in need.



In the Gospel reading, Jesus has both the power to lay down his life for us, and the power to take it up again. For this reason he is the Good Shepherd, the ideal shepherd. He doesn't run from danger. He isn't the wolf and he isn't the hired hand. He doesn't want us to be snatched or scattered or left for dead. His power has been given by the Father. The Good Shepherd is one who gathers and holds the community together even if it means giving his own life. This is radically different from the wolf and the hired hand, those who use their energy (power and name) to snatch and scatter.

*“By what power or by what name did you do this?”* The question itself indicates that some action was taken. Someone embarked on a task, rolled up a sleeve, engaged in something that has to do with the commandment, the new commandment that Jesus gives *“to love one another.”*

There are of course other “powers” at work in the world. There are other “names” by which people act and carry on: racism, prejudice, arrogance. We hear about them in news casts and read about them online or in our news feed. The difference is that the question put to Peter and John in the reading from Acts, and the question put to us, you and me, this morning originates out of the command to love one another. We are called to love one another. Things we say. Things we do.

We have been given power to live and act in love. We have been given power to live and act not like the wolf and the hired hand that snatch and scatter, but to live life modeled by Jesus of Nazareth who gathers and holds, sustains, and acts selflessly. *“By what power or by what name did you do this?”* Given the command to love (so prominent in the Gospel of John), interactions are enveloped in love of neighbor, love for one another, living fully into the new commandment given that night in an upper room when Jesus stooped low and washed his disciple's feet, shared a meal, sang a hymn, and went into the garden to pray before he would be arrested and turned over to authorities who would ask him about power and name.

By what power or by what name do you live your life? The sampling of biblical writers from whom we have heard this morning remind us of the power of the Spirit, the power of God, the power of Jesus, who gives a new commandment to love, in speech and action. Such loving speech and action is bound to bring healing (salvation). Healing needed in a world wounded by prejudice, racism, and arrogance. Christ Jesus the Good Shepherd models care for his flock, his love being so deep that he would suffer and die to save us, to heal us, to give us an abundant life. In Holy Baptism we were welcomed into a life of salvation, healing, and with them forgiveness of sins. You and I receive salvation, healing, and abundant life in Holy Communion. You are forgiven and made whole through the power of God and by the name of Christ Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

**Psalm 23****SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] 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.

**GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

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