

# Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 25, 2021



# GATHERING

## Welcome

**Call to Worship - *God, You Are Enough* (based on Psalm 23)**

God, You are enough for us;  
**you lead us to green fields,  
and to quiet waters;  
you restore and renew us,  
and lead us into life-giving ways;**

When death and evil come close to us,  
you carry us through,  
you protect and comfort us;  
**you fill us with your strength  
and give us overflowing abundance;**

We have confidence that your goodness and compassion  
will fill our days,  
**and we will stay immersed in your life and presence  
forever.**

**Confession and Forgiveness – pg. 94**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Confession and Forgiveness begins.)*

**Gathering Song – 445 – “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”**

## 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.**

**Kyrie –pg. 147**

**Hymn of Praise – pg. 148 - “Glory to God in the Highest...”**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**Gracious and loving God, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we will be satisfied, heal us and we will be made whole. Make us one with you. In your name we pray. Amen**

## WORD

### Children's Message

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism - Rose Vail DuFresne**

### Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### PSALM: Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John.

<sup>16</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation – 172 - “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah

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

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

### **Song of the Day – 780 – “Shepherd Me, O God”**

## **Prayers of the People**

Lord in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory – “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free spirit.*

**Lord’s Prayer – pg. 145**

## SENDING

### **Blessing**

**Sending Song – 713 – “O God of Every Nation”**

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

### ***Announcements***

#### **“Growing Connections” Garden**

It is almost time to get into the garden! We will need lots more help this year with this ministry. Planting day will be Sunday, May 16th with a back up plan date of May 23rd. To find out how you can help, contact Larry Enfield or Nicole Monroe.

#### **Hospitality Forum with Pastoral Intern Lucas**

Lucas is hosting forums in May on what welcome looks like. What is Christian hospitality? How do we go about putting that into practice? What does that mean for how we relate to God?

There will be three opportunities for people to participate:

Saturday, May 1 at 10:00 AM at First Lutheran and on Zoom

Sunday, May 2 at 10:00 AM at Vang

Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 PM at Holden

All are welcome to join in on any of those three dates.

### **Worship Schedule**

**May 2nd**—Dennison 11 am Reader: Karen Koester Vang-9am Reader: Brian Koester Acolyte: Erika Nesseth

**May 9th**— Vang 9 am Reader: Denise Olson Acolyte: Claire Berndt

### **Faith Growth Opportunity – Contemplative Prayer**

Contemplative practices provide the time and space to experience God's immediate and loving presence in a first-hand kind of way. If your daily life is running a little low on feelings of well-being, love, joy, peace, and hope – or if you're just generally feeling a bit disconnected in your relationship with the Divine – then contemplative practices may be of help on your journey.

The first session will be April 20 and the special guest will be Julie Stevens, the Director of Contemplative Prayer practices at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester. The group will meet weekly for 5 sessions. Group sessions will be in person, on zoom, or a hybrid of both based on the preferences of the group.

**Special Prayers for:** Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Norma Sands, Lowell Anderson Larry Buchta, Marianne King, Tim Larson, LuAnn Lervik, Chuck Wells, all of our homebound people, service members and their families, and for all those in need of healing and strength.

### ***GOSPEL MESSAGE***

#### **Abundant Care**

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal

about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.