

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!
If you have no church home, consider joining us.
Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service.

Opening Song Salvation Belongs To Our God

Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne,
And unto the Lamb; praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength.
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever Amen.

And we the redeemed shall be strong in purpose and unity,
Declaring aloud praise and glory wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength.
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever Amen.

Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength.
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever Amen. Amen.

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The Baptism of Harold Lane Borlaug

Covenant Child

Covenant child, water comes as a sign of the washing and cleansing
renewing your mind.
Covenant child, you are claimed as God's own.
You are one of His people.
His church is your home.

Covenant child, you are here by God's grace,
by the work of our Savior, Who died in your place.
Covenant child, you are living in Christ.
Buried with Him in suffering, with Him you will rise

Covenant child, we are praying for you.
May you stay close to Jesus in all that you do.
Covenant child, grow strong in the faith.
Seek after God's wisdom and walk in His way.

Pastor: Jesus said: "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

People: Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.

Pastor: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

People: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

People: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

People: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions.

We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not

without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep; they are Yours. Empower Your church to reach every sheep that belongs to You and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 4:1-12

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the

people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

¹¹ Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: As our Good Shepherd leads us, even so our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

You Alone Can Rescue

Who, O Lord, could save themselves;
Their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea;
Your grace is deeper still.

Who, O Lord, could save themselves;
Their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea;
Your grace is deeper still.

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us,
led us out of death.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

You, O Lord, have made a way;
The great divide, You healed.
For when our hearts were far away,
Your love went further still.
Yes, Your love goes further still.

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us,
led us out of death.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us,
led us out of death.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

To You alone belongs the highest praise.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

We lift up our eyes,
Lift up our eyes.
You're the Giver of Life. (Repeat three times).

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us,
led us out of death.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

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Sermon

S.C.A.R.S: Confession

1 John 1:8-9

The Offering

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others.

Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His undershepherds and all who care for His flock.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose

earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, [*especially . . .*].

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

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

The Invitation

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

Words of Institution

On the night He was betrayed,
He took the bread, gave thanks, and said,
“Take eat, my friends, this broken bread,
this is my body for forgiveness of your sin.
When you eat, my friends, this meal of love,
remember me and my love for you again.”

On the night He was betrayed,
He took the cup, gave thanks, and said,
“Take drink, my friends, this cup of wine,
this is my blood for forgiveness of your sin.
When you drink, my friends, this cup of love,
remember me and my love for you again.”

**Oh, we are here, to thank You Lord,
for the bread and wine outpoured.
For it is Your body and Your blood
that You so lovingly and freely give to us.
So we praise You holy Lamb of God;
We love You our sweet Jesus.
We love You our sweet Jesus.
We love You our sweet Jesus.**

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Distribution

Scars

Waking up to a new sunrise,

looking back from the other side,
I can see now with open eyes.

Darkest waster and deepest pain,
I wouldn't trade it for anything,
'cause my brokenness brought me to You.
And these wounds are a story You'll use.

So I'm thankful for the scars,
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

Now I'm standing in confidence
With the strength of Your faithful ness.
And I'm not who I was before.
No, I don't have to fear anymore.

So I'm thankful for the scars,
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

I can see, I can see, how You delivered me.
In Your hands, in Your feet I found my victory. (Repeat)

So I'm thankful for the scars,
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.
And with my life I'll tell of who You are,
So forever I am thankful.

I'm thankful for the scars,
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,
So forever I am thankful for the scars.
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

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Communion Dismissal

- P:** Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith until life everlasting.
Go in His peace.
- C:** **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray.
Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve You all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

You Are Holy

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