

# St. Paul's Free Methodist Church

## Fourth Sunday Of Easter

Call To Worship      Holy God We Praise Thy Name

### Greeting

Alleluia! By your cross you destroyed the curse of the tree.

**By your burial you slayed the dominion of death.**

By your rising, you enlightened the human race.

**O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to you. Alleluia!**

Hymn Of Praise      Christ Be Our Light

### Prayer

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### First Lesson

*Acts 2:42-47*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm

*Psalm 23*

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

### Hymn

**Be Not Afraid**

### Second Lesson

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If 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. For to this you have been

called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When 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. He 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. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel Alleluia**

*Gospel*

*John 10:1-10*

**R:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

"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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

**R:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Apostles' Creed**

**Confession And Prayers Of The People**

Dearly beloved, so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind for worship at the Lord's Table, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy. ... **Let us pray: Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace. In that peace we affirm, with joy:

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

So we can say to one another: the peace of the Lord be with you!

**And also with you.**

Let us take a few moments to greet one another with signs of peace and reconciliation.

## **Doxology**

### **Communion**

### **One Bread, One Body**

### **Easter Prayer After Communion**

**God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. By your love and power that raised Jesus from the dead, fill us with your Spirit and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.**

### **Community Sharing**

### **Hymn Of Dismissal**

### **How Great Thou Art**

### **Dismissal With Blessing**

Go in the peace and power of the Risen Christ, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

**We are sent in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia!**

**Next Week's Readings:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**Preaching This Week:** Mikey Ward

**Preaching Next Week:** Rick McPeak