

THE 10 AM SERVICE

ST. MARK'S IN-THE VALLEY

APRIL 25, 2021, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

For now, please keep masks in place (except when consuming the sacrament) and maintain physical distance while on campus. Our patience with these considerations will likely only need to continue for a couple more months. Clergy and chalice bearers will bring communion to you at your seat.

Prelude (seated) *Euterpe Suite*

J.K.F. Fischer

BEVERLY STAPLES, pianist

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation (standing, as able)

Leader ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

All **To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!**

Standing, as able, all join in praying the canticle

Beloved let us love one another

because love is of God;

Everyone who loves comes from God

and knows God.

Those who do not love are not conscious of God,

for God is love.

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:

**by sending the Only Begotten into the world,
that we might have faith through the Holy One.**

Love, then, consists in this:

not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us

and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.

Beloved, if God has loved us so,

we must have the same love for one another.

A Song of God's Love

1 John 4:7-11

The Collect of the Day (standing, as able)

Leader God is here.

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Leader Let us pray.

Leader Lord of the sheepfold, whose love is not for hire, who calls to himself the victims of the world: we thank you that Christ laid down his life for us when we could not help ourselves; in the weakness of his love give us strength to work for peace in the world he came to serve, through Jesus Christ, the good shepherd.

All **Amen.**

from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare

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The Readings

First Reading (*seated*)

1 John 3:16-24

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ died for us. And we, too, ought to lay down our lives for our sisters and brothers. ¹⁷ If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? ¹⁸

My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. ¹⁹ This, then, is how we'll know we belong to the truth; this is how we'll be confident in God's presence, ²⁰ even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. ²¹ And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, ²² and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand—because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight.

²³ The commandments are these: that we believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. ²⁴ Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23 (*remaining seated, we will pray responsively by whole verses*)

Reader ¹ O God, you are my shepherd—

I want nothing more.

All ² **You let me lie down in green meadows;**

you lead me beside restful waters:

Reader ³ you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.

All ⁴ **Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,**

I fear no danger, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—they give me courage.

Reader ⁵ You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil—my cup overflows!

All ⁶ **Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, O God, for days without end.**

The Gospel (*standing, as able*)

John 10:11-18

Reader The ✠ Holy Gospel of our ✠ Savior Jesus Christ ✠ according to John.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹¹ Jesus said, I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. ¹³ That's because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, ¹⁵ in the same way Creator God knows me and I know God—and for these sheep I will lay down my life.

¹⁶ I have other sheep that don't belong to this fold—I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

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17 This is why Creator God loves me—because I lay down my life, only to take it up again. 18 No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from God my Source and Creator.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon (seated)

Affirmation of Faith (standing, as able)

**All shall be Amen and Alleluia.
We shall rest and we shall see.
We shall see and we shall know.
We shall know and we shall love.
We shall love and we shall praise.
Behold our end, which is no end. Amen.**

Saint Augustine, as found in
An African Prayer Book,
Desmond Tutu, ed., p. 33.

Prayers of the People (standing, as able)

Leader God, we know that if we say we love you
All **And neglect to love our neighbors,**
Leader Our words are empty
All **And our faith is practically useless.** ¹

Leader We know that there are many in need of care,
All **In need of help and uplifting,**
Leader Many unjust systems in need of dismantling;
All **So we set ourselves to the work of Love—** ²
Leader Not just in our words, or in virtue-signaling or performance,
All **But in truth and action.** ³

Leader Make of us a people unafraid to tackle hard problems,
All **Unperturbed by setbacks,**
Leader Unswayed by resistance,
All **Committed to the work of peace and justice,**
Leader Committed to caring for the people you know and love ⁴
All **Our siblings, our fellow sojourners on this earth.**

Leader We belong to a family of Beloveds,
All **Beloved by you,**
Leader Beloved by Christ,
All **Beloved by one another.**

Leader If anything or anyone seeks to condemn us,
All **You are always reassuring our hearts.** ⁵
Leader If we get tired or discouraged,
All **You restore our souls** ⁶
Leader If we find ourselves in need,
All **You provide out of your abundance.** ⁷

Litany for Love in Action
by Litanist **Fran Pratt**, from
her Patreon collections
and her book *Call and
Response, Litanies for
Congregational Prayer*.
Find out more about Fran
and her work at
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1. 1 Corinthians 13:1
2. 1 John 3:17
3. 1 John 3:18
4. John 10:14,
5. 1 John 3:19,20
6. Psalm 23:3
7. Psalm 23:5
8. 1 John 3:23,24

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Leader So let us not waste one moment here,
All **Nor fail to leave the world better than we found it;**
Leader So that everyone we meet will understand
All **That Divine Love abides in us.** ⁸
Leader We serve Love
All **And we are Love.**

The Peace (*standing, as able*)

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

For now, please stay in place and share the peace with those nearest you with a bow or wave and greeting.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory *Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings God has given us.*

Voluntary (*seated*) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* *arr. Kevin Keil*
NICHOLE DECHAINED, *flutist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

Presenting and dedicating our gifts (*standing, as able*)

Leader Asking: 'Why do you stand looking up into heaven?'
Jesus comes to us again and again;
All **in all people, in the bread and wine of this table
and in the communion of peace.**

The Great Thanksgiving (*standing, as able*)

Leader God is here.
All **God's Spirit is with us.**
Leader Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

(*seated or standing*)

Leader We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus, you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed. You spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; you taught us to die that we might live.

You gave yourself for us tortured and forsaken, but you could not be confined by death; in the garden you speak our name, in the breaking of the bread you show yourself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, you call us to take up your work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear, we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

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All **Holy, holy, holy: God of mercy, giver of life; earth, sea, sky, and all that lives, declare your presence and your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader We ask that your Holy Spirit will ✕ fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our savior, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All **Christ dies with us. Christ rises in us. Christ comes to us again and again.**

Therefore, we come to him in whom all is created in heaven and on earth, whose cross and resurrection make all things new.

We offer this to you, asking you to smile upon the gifts we bring, for you alone are the Giver and Christ's the gift through which we live once and for all.

Through the One who was emptied to bear your fullness we make our prayer with all created life to the glory of the God who fills all in all now and for ever.

All **AMEN.**

(seated or standing)

Leader And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread *(A period of silence is kept.)*

Leader We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Invitation *(standing, as able)*

Leader The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion *(seated / standing, as able)*

The ministers of communion will come to you. As you wish, remain seated until they do. Please stand, as able, to receive. Please receive the host in your hands and take the small cup from the tray to receive. It is customary to respond "Amen" to the words of administration. An acolyte will pick up your cup in a basket.

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Minister The Body of Christ, the Bread of heaven.

Response Amen.

Minister The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

Response Amen.

Communion is open to everyone.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are invited to receive communion here. You are welcome to come forward and take the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

At Communion *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Music *American folk tune*; Text *Isaac Watts, Psalm 23*

NICHOLE DECHAINED, *vocalist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

¹ My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name;
in pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

² When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;
one word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows, thy oil anoints my head.

³ The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
oh, may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

Postcommunion Prayer (*standing, as able*)

Leader Let us pray.

All ***Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands, the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakable faith in the world you love. Amen.***

The Blessing (*standing, as able*)

Leader Jesus, strong deliverer and lover of souls, as you sent Mary of Magdala to tell the good news of your resurrection, so fill and embolden us that we may be active expressions of your love of this world today and every day; and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty: Creating Presence, Redeeming Christ, and Life-giving Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever.

All ***Amen.***

Dismissal (*standing, as able*)

Leader ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

All ***To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!***

Postlude (*seated*) *La Romanesca*

Antonio Valente

BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*