

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 3, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:
O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD
First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10

Reflection – Pastor Melissa

The 23rd Psalm is a source of comfort and familiarity for many of us, but it also takes us down a path through the hazards of life. Along with the peaceful resting places and the experiences of life’s abundance, we walk through dark valleys. Our lives take strange and unexpected turns. The way is rough. We get tired.

But God continues to provide resting places along the way. We go from pasture to fold and back again. And the gate, who lets us pass in to the comfort and rest of the fold, is the same one who opens a way out into the pasture of this world, where we grow and learn and love and stumble. The pasture of our world is not a safe place, but it is a place where we walk accompanied by the presence of God. It’s a place where God used a cross to open a doorway to heaven, where Christ undid the power of our sin by refusing to stop loving us, even when it killed him. A place where we are called to walk where he walks, to love like he loves, to be present as he mends what is broken, brings abundance to places of conflict, and honors those we would overlook. With Christ allowing the way for us, we are granted access to a rest and peace beyond our circumstance, as well as ongoing adventure and the courage to step out onto the next path of our lives. We are blessed to go out and come in, secure that God’s love and care for us is unconditional all the days of our lives. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
A Brief Silence
Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers’ markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.
Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering (especially...). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Lord’s Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Easter: Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Let us remember in our prayers: Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp
Also for everyone affected by COVID 19 – those who have been infected, those who are quarantined, those who continue to care for the sick, those making major decisions.

Pastor Melissa’s worship video can be found at:
<https://youtu.be/DtU19pc-vU8>

For more worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a. You can also access him on YouTube - just search Pastor Randy Fiege.
- Also, the Lutherans Connect Blog. <https://reimaginingjustice.blogspot.com/2020/03/>
- The ELCIC Sask Synod website has a list of worship livestreams from congregations across the country.

During this COVID 19 crisis, remember we need to stay connected and we can stay in touch with others simply by making a phone call!! Let us remember our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community. Please, don’t forget them!

A Note from Cathy Flath: I joined a computer “Zoom” meeting April 29th with other council members from congregations all across the synod. Bishop Sid was reaching out to our churches to see how they are doing through the Covid crisis. Good discussions were held on topics such as worship, virtual communion, finances and any other concerns we may have had. The re-opening of our churches was also briefly discussed. As of yet, the Premier hasn't given us any guidelines. I feel we are blessed to have devoted Pastors, leaders and parishioners to continue to help us all get through this. And we will!! It was good to hear a devotion, pray together and talk with fellow believers. Thank you to Bishop Sid!

The Langham Community Refugee Sponsorship Committee is looking for donations to fund dental work for the group’s sponsored refugee family. Our refugee family arrived at the end of October - two parents and four boys. The mother and father are in bad need of dental work. Some work will be covered by the federal government’s dental plan for refugee families but not all. The amount needed to cover their dental work is

around \$3500.00. If you are interested in making a donation, you may send an e-transfer to cbueckert@sasktel.net or send a cheque to the Langham Mennonite Fellowship, Box 285, Langham, SK S0K 2L0. If you wish to receive a charitable tax receipt, provide name and mailing address along with your donation. Thank you.

CLAY 2020 - Postponed to 2021 - members of the executive for the 2020 CLAY Gathering National Planning Committee from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) have decided to postpone this event to August 19-22, 2021 which will be held at the Southern Alberta Institute for Technology (SAIT) in Calgary, AB. For more info see <http://claygathering.ca/covid/>

Even though we don’t meet each Sunday for worship, the expenses are still there. You can still give your donation to your church:
First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.
St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

St. Paul - for a printed copy of each week’s bulletin, you can find them at the back of the church or in a bag on the front step.

For ELCIC news and updates check out the website at sask.synod.elcic.ca.

Happy Birthday this week: Paige Farthing, Lawrence Schensney, Richard Desmarais, Murray Peters, Melvin Ross, Clayton Chappell, LeeAnn Strand, Genie Thompson, Quinlan Beaver

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

¹⁰“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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.