

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
A parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania

**April 21, 2024, 7:45 am The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Rite I**  
**Good Shepherd Sunday**

Our Mission: God is calling the people of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, Pennsylvania to follow Jesus' teaching to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Therefore, we love and embrace each other, friend, and stranger alike in worship, service, and prayer as we seek to live in and share God's Word.

– Adopted by the St. Mary's Vestry, May 2015



*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **First Reading**

**Acts 4:5-12 a**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## The Prayers of the People

*The Deacon or other person appointed says*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church. In our parish cycle of prayers this week, we pray for **Harry and Merrily Spiess and their family**.

*After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.*

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Daniel, our Bishop, Lucy Ann our Interim Rector and for that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph our President, and Josh our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor *(Congregation reads the name aloud)* **Irene Steinhardt, Lisa Hart, Barbara Kidder, Victoria Coates, JoAnne Vereneck, Jim Cobb, Scott Ziglar, Craig and Ann Marie Erickson, Marylu Hill and her family, Magali Behrmann, Avanya Manasseh and David Randolph.** and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; and especially remembering all those in whose memory the flowers on the altars and the Sanctuary Light have been given, and those whom we remember on the anniversaries of their deaths this week, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.  
**Amen.**

### **In Grateful Memory and Thanksgiving**

**Flowers on the High Altar** this morning are given by Mr. Gerald Beam to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joanne Trotter Beam and Patricia G. Beam.

**Flowers on the Lady Chapel Altar** are given in loving memory of Iva May Johnson, by her daughter Eleanor Johnson, deceased long time member of St. Mary's.

**The Sanctuary Light** is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Audrey and Roland Smith.

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
Wayne, Pennsylvania  
*[www.stmaryswaynepa.org](http://www.stmaryswaynepa.org)*