

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**Closing Hymn, Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!.....** LBW #147

**Postlude**

**Pastor: Steven Bang**

**Organist/Pianist: Ruth Sheldon**

**Usher: Bill Schutter**

**Lectionary: Paris Reimann**

**Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum**

### Announcements

#### **Today**

7 p.m. Youth Group

#### **Wednesday, April 20**

3 p.m. Confirmation Class

7 p.m. Bible Study

#### **Next Sunday, April 24**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

7 p.m. Youth Group

**Beginning May 1** worship service will be at 8:30 a.m., fellowship at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m.

**Congregational Meeting will be held May 1** after the worship service. Congregation will vote on amending conflicting bylaws in the West Prairie Constitution regarding number of council members.

**Prayer List**—Lloyd Richards (Denise Holst's father), Donnie Jensen, Mandy Carlson, Elaine Ritz, Carver Moffett, Kylie Holst, Angela Haugen, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Roger Peterson, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil. All prayer requests can be submitted to: [www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer](http://www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer); leave message on church answering system @641-567-3733; or called in to Pastor Steve @ 641-590-7894.

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC**

**Prelude**

**Pastoral Greeting**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness** .....page 77

**Opening Praise Hymns, Father, We Praise You** ..... LBW #267

**Kyrie** ..... page 78

**Hymn of Praise, Glory to God in the Highest** .....page 79

**Prayer of the Day**

**All: Almighty God, You show the light of Your truth to those in darkness, to lead them into the way of righteousness. Give strength to all who are joined in the family of the church so that they will resolutely reject what erodes their faith and firmly follow what faith requires; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 20:17-35**

**Farewell to Ephesus**

From Miletus he (Paul) sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come

**11 a.m., April 17, 2016**

**Pastor Steve Bang**

in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**PSALM 23** (responsively)

L: The LORD is my shepherd,

**C: I shall not want.**

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

**C: He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul;**

L: He guides me in the paths of righteousness

**C: For His name's sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**C: I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

L : You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**C: You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

**C: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND LESSON:** Revelation 7:9-17

**A Multitude from the Tribulation**

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great

tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

**Alleluia** ..... page 83

**GOSPEL LESSON:** John 10:22-30

**Response:** *Glory to You, O Lord* ..... page 83

At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

**Response:** *Praise to You, O Christ* ..... page 83

*You may be seated.*

**SERMON:** Pastor Steve Bang

"Can You Hear Me Now?" John 10:24b-27

**Hymn, I Hear the Voice of Jesus Say** ..... LBW #497

*Please stand.*

**Apostles' Creed** ..... page 85

**Prayer**

*Sharing of the Peace.*

*You may be seated.*

**Offering**

*Please stand.*

**Offertory, Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God** ..... page 96

**Prayer**..... page 96

**The Lord's Prayer** ..... page 97

**Benediction** ..... page 97

**Pastor:** Go in peace, serve the Lord

## SERMAN NOTES . . .

### “Can You Hear Me Now?” - John 10:24b-27

1. “My sheep listen to my \_\_\_\_\_; I know them and they follow me.”
2. God has always wanted us to worship Him, but without us \_\_\_\_\_ to Him we have a problem understanding what He has to say.
3. We serve a God that is alive and He is still \_\_\_\_\_ to this world and when God speaks everyone should listen.
4. When God speaks, it is with an \_\_\_\_\_ from the throne of heaven that carries more power and authority than mom or dad.
5. God speaks into our lives words of compassion, direction, correction, and understanding because He \_\_\_\_\_ us.
6. Our life is comfortable and hearing from God could cause us to move from \_\_\_\_\_ about things of God to caring about the things of God.
7. God may have to ‘take us to the woodshed’ at times. It is a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and correction. But God says that He disciplines those that He loves.
8. Why would God speak aloud to someone who is not willing to search the \_\_\_\_\_ daily to grow in the Word that He has already given to us?
9. God’s Word is \_\_\_\_\_, ‘sharper than any two-edged sword’. It speaks to us.
10. “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a \_\_\_\_\_ man who built his house upon a rock.”
11. Whatever it is that you are doing that prevents you from hearing God, \_\_\_\_\_ need to make a change!
12. God speaks to us in many ways and all He is asking is:  
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