

A close-up, grainy photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket, holding a small white lamb. The man is looking down at the lamb with a gentle expression. The lamb is looking towards the camera. The background is dark and indistinct.

I am the good
shepherd.
I know my own
and my own
know me

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

LIBERTY POLE — Sun. Worship 9:00 AM — S6759 Hwy. 27 — (608) 675-3630

VIROQUA — Sun. Worship 10:30 AM — 221 S. Center Ave. — (608) 637-3551

May 3, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Easter

***Please stand if you are able.**

PRELUDE *a time to prepare for worship through prayer and meditation*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP - VIR.

WELCOMING WORDS

(please sign the attendance sheets)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively) *Exodus 15:1-2*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,

my father's God, and I will exalt him.

***OPENING PRAYER** (unison) Prayer of John Chrysostom Hymnal No. 412

***PASSING THE PEACE - L.P.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Lord of the Dance" No. 261

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison) The Nicene Creed Hymnal No. 880

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison) Hymnal No. 895

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE - VIR.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 10:11-18* pew Bible pg. 1296

SPECIAL MUSIC - L.P.

CHOIR ANTHEM - VIR. "In Remembrance of Me" Beall/ Larson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 4:1-12* pew Bible pg. 1321

*HYMN "Lift High the Cross" No. 159

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING *I John 3:16-24* pew Bible pg. 1496

SERMON "Words That Divide" Pastor Ethan

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

DEDICATION OF NEW COMMUNIONWARE - VIR.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

*CLOSING HYMN "His Name Is Wonderful" No. 174

***BENEDICTION**

*THREEFOLD AMEN (unison) Hymnal No. 898

***POSTLUDE**

LIBERTY POLE

VIROQUA

USHERS Val Lind & Nick Thompson Almina Hirschfield & Betty Ross

ACOLYTES volunteer volunteer

LITURGISTS Brian Funk Veryl Gerdl

GREETERS Almina Hirschfield & Betty Ross

Last Sunday's attendance: 66

104

Last Sunday's offering: \$906

\$2491.59

Pastor Ethan Larson

Organists: Joyce Funk (Liberty Pole), Kathy Hanson & Barb Casper (Viroqua)

Choir Director (Viroqua): Lynn Whitney

church office phone: 637-3551

website: www.viroquaumc.org

e-mail: info@viroquaumc.org

pastor@viroquaumc.org

THE WVRQ RADIO BROADCAST today is sponsored by Pete and Shirley Gilman in memory of Vivian Guist.

THE LIBERTY POLE BULLETINS today are sponsored by Bev Bankes in memory of her father, Lester Cade, who passed away 25 years ago in May.

THE VIROQUA BULLETINS today are sponsored by Pat Matz in honor of her great-granddaughter Emily Grace, whose birthday is May 9.

CALENDAR

- Wed. 9:30 AM Viroqua UMW Executive Committee meeting**
- Wed. 6 PM choir practice at Viroqua**
- Thurs. 1:15 PM prayer meeting at Viroqua**
- Thurs. 1:30 PM Viroqua Lydia Circle**
- next Sun. We will be honoring mothers, graduates, and teachers, at both worship services.**
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Viroqua Church:

The choir's last Sunday this spring will be May 17. Please sign up to **help provide special music** while the choir is on summer vacation. The sign-up clipboard is in the narthex.

The Missions Committee is preparing **school kits for children and totebags for sailors**; these will be taken to Annual Conference in June. Please stop by our table in the narthex and consider making a donation.

John 10:11-18 NIV (New International Version)

11"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Acts 4:1-12 NIV (New International Version)

1The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

5The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. 7They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11He is " 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.[a]'[b] 12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Footnotes:

1. Acts 4:11 Or cornerstone
2. Acts 4:11 Psalm 118:22

COMMUNION

Pastor: The altar set before us is God's altar - it is God's table. God invites to share in this meal every person who earnestly repents of their sin, seeks to live a holy and righteous life, and desires to live at peace with all people. Now let us confess our sins to God and each other.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have failed to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: You are forgiven.

People: You are forgiven.

Pastor: Almighty God, You gave us Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and to die upon the cross for us and for our salvation as the one perfect sacrifice. Consecrate these elements of bread and wine, the symbols He gave us for His body and blood, which were broken and shed for us, that they may be for us His true food, bringing to us wholeness and holiness and making us partakers of the divine nature through Him.

On the night He was betrayed, He took the bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat, for this is my body, broken for you; do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, He took the cup, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and drink all of this, for it is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me." Amen.

(sharing the elements)

All: O Lord, our heavenly Father, we Your humble servants desire Your fatherly goodness to mercifully accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; we most humbly ask You to grant that by the merits and death of Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and Your whole church may obtain forgiveness of our sins and all of the other benefits of His passion.

Here we offer and present to You, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice to You, humbly asking You that we who are partakers of this holy communion may be filled with Your grace and heavenly benediction. And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer to You any sacrifice, yet we beg You to accept this our necessary duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be given to You, heavenly Father almighty, world without end, Amen.