

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Good Shepherd Sunday
April 20, 2013 – 5:00 PM

AS WE GATHER

It is Good Shepherd Sunday, on which we, "the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand" (*Psalms 95:7*) hear our Shepherd's voice. As Paul reminded the Christians in Ephesus, in this world it is not always easy to listen, but the vision from Revelation reminds us that the Lamb is now reigning, ensuring peace and joy. We know where our Shepherd is leading, and so we follow!

WELCOME

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #711 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will'
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

WELCOME

"To Know The Good Shepherd"

ANTHEM

"Gentle Shepherd"

Grades 4K-3

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: St. Paul warned, "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." *Acts 20:29*

People: **We confess that we have sought to repel false teachers through the strength of our wisdom and willpower, rather than relying on the Good News of our Shepherd's obedience, even to His dying on the cross. Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

Pastor: John was promised that in heaven, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." *Revelation 7:17c*

People: **We confess that we have allowed the sorrows of this world to overshadow the certain faith the Holy Spirit has given us, at times diminishing or even forgetting the gracious promises you have made for the sake of Christ. Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

Pastor: Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." *John 10:27*

People: **We confess that too often we have been wandering sheep, listening to each other's bleating and the allures of our fallen world, instead of paying attention to our Shepherd's voice. Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

Pastor: Jesus conveys beautiful promises to all those whom the Father has given Him as His flock, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand." *John 10:28* As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of your sheep,

People: grant us your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us by name and follow where He leads;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16

“I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. 16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. You, my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, the Sovereign Lord.”

PSALM 23 (Read responsively with Grades 1-3 and the congregation)

Grades 1-3: The Lord is my shepherd,

Cong: I shall not want

Grades 1-3: He makes me lie down in green pastures,

Cong: He leads me beside the quiet waters,

Grades 1-3: He restores my soul;

Cong: He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

Grades 1-3: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

Cong: For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Grades 1-3: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Cong: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING John 10:11-16

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 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.

HYMN #864

“Shepherd of Tender Youth”

Stanzas 1, 4, 5

Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant king, we come Your name to sing
and here our children bring to join Your praise.

O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride, Our staff and song.
Jesus, O Christ of God, by your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod;
Make our faith strong.

So now, and till we die, Sound we Your praises high and joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng, Who to the Church belong, Unite to swell the song
to Christ, our king!

ANTHEM

“God is My Shepherd”

Grades PK-3

PART 1: ABOUT SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS

ANTHEM

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

Grades 4K-3

PART 2: JESUS IS OUR SHEPHERD-WE ARE THE SHEEP

ANTHEM

“I Look to the Shepherd”

Grades 4K-3

HYMN OF THE DAY #709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

MESSAGE *"The Good Shepherd and His Sheep"* **John 10:22-30**

(Rise)

CREED

Pastor: Shepherds provide for all the needs of their flock. Our Creator God provides not only for our spiritual health, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. Believing in God the Father as Creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, which we use now as our confession of faith.

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*Grades 1-3 will sing through twice, Congregation then joins in singing*)

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us. Grant us peace.

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. Grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #550 "Lamb of God"

You only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side

To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain ***O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

HYMN #735 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom; Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God, For He stays close
beside you, In all things works with you; Thankful hearts raise to God!

HYMN #710 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord our God, we give you thanks and praise for again
nourishing us with your Word and with the body and blood of our Savior.
Strengthen us thereby to resist all who would lead us astray from our
Shepherd. Keep us firm in the faith until we celebrate the marriage feast
of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #463 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

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Preacher

Liturgist

Lector

Acolyte

Pre-K – Grade 3 Teachers

Flute

Organist & Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Jo Shemanske

Joseph Bender

Ellen Van Dyke, Jo Shemanske, Sue Graf, Barb Heimsoth, Jane Jahnke

Vicki Novotny

Kim Woller

St. Paul's Servants Dinner and Auction a Great Success! Well over 200 people attended our dinner and auction on April 6. With donations from members and our surrounding community, with several youth being auctioned off, and some sales of uniquely beautiful clothing accessories the auction itself grossed over \$6,500. With ticket sales and other cash donations, the total amount received was \$9,479. We had expenses of \$442, so the total amount raised for our Youth and the Groundwork Guatemala mission team was \$9,037. Two-thirds, or \$6,024.67, will support 18 of St. Paul's Youth and Counselors headed to the National Youth Gathering this summer. One-third, or \$3,012.33, will offset expenses for the 9 members of the Groundwork Guatemala mission team. What a blessing to see God's people gather together for a wonderful evening of fellowship and raising funds for the mission and ministry of St. Paul's!

Jr. High Youth: CARD GAME NIGHT on April 21 from 3-5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come hang out and have some fun fellowship with us. Any questions, please call Stacey Kukor at [414-550-5291](tel:414-550-5291). Hope to see you there.