

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28 & 29, 2012

AS WE GATHER

The portrayal of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is used very early on in artistic representations, going back to the very first Christian centuries. The earliest believers took comfort in the image brought to life by Jesus' words: "I am the Good Shepherd." The fact that He chooses to repeat that statement more than once indicates its importance. Jesus, our Redeemer, is all that is good and has made the good promise that He will lead us into that place where goodness and righteousness are eternal.

5:00 PRESERVICE ANTHEM *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* Bell Choir

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT

+ PREPARATION +

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

(Please rise) **INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES**

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Oh taste and see that the LORD is good;

People: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. *Psalm 34:8*

Pastor: You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your Word.

People: You are good and do good. *Psalm 119:65, 68a*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our ways.

People: With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Women/Girls: Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Men/Boys: Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

People: Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Pastor: He has told you, O man what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:6-8*

All: Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good you demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may follow where He leads until that time when we, by His grace, come to dwell in your house forever.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. May He keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

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Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: (sing) Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: (sing) Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: (sing) Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: (sing) Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: (sing) Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sing)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. *Continued*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of your sheep, grant us your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON Acts 4:1-12 (*Peter and John speak before the council.*) The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then 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. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

EPISTLE I John 3:16-24 (*We are commanded by God to believe on the name of Jesus Christ and to love one another.*) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him

anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

5:00 ANTHEM "Hodie! Christ is Arisen" *Children's Choir*

8:00 ANTHEM "Worthy is the Lamb" *St. Paul's Choir*

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11-18 (*Jesus says there will be one flock and one shepherd.*) "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. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No 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."

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #711 "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

SERMON "The Hired Hand and The Good Shepherd"

(Please rise)

THE NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please 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.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM "The Shepherd Song" *Bell Choir*

(Please rise)

PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people

according to their needs: We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness of God may be shared and the Good News of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all nations, asking that your still waters of peace may flow throughout the world and that there may be abundant goodness and kindness among all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all members of our families. May there be a godly willingness to be led by the Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell together in love and unity. We join together with Terri, Bob, Ellen and Bob in thanking you for your goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord, sadness or chronic illness. Gently guide them with your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with you. We pray especially for Ray, Jerry, Lois, Joe, Kim and Samuel. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With gratefulness we remember those who dwell in the eternal house of the Lord forever. With Frank we remember Mary Lou. May we be inspired to experience our life journey with courageous faith and hope as we heed the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow in His way. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

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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.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM

"God My Shepherd Walks Beside Me"

HYMN # 550

"Lamb of God"

HYMN # 735

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

HYMN # 740

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are you, Heavenly Father, for you have once again fed and nourished us at your table through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank you for being our never-failing source of goodness and pray that we may be kept steadfast and faithful until at last we taste the fullness of your great goodness in your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

5:00 ANTHEM

"Go Now in Peace"

St. Paul's School 4-8

CLOSING HYMN # 709

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Stanzas 1,2,5,6

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Kathy Palmreuter, Laurel Privatt, Jodi Drew

Acolytes

Dominic Talavera, Kallie Thoren, Megan Lewan

Organist & Children's Choir Director

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Bell Choir Director

Jan Schneider

Flute

Rindee Mowery

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke

St. Paul's Music Teacher

Shannon Wiegert