

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Good Shepherd

April 16 & 17, 2016

### AS WE GATHER

O blessed mystery! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, is also the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. The risen Lord Jesus is alive and present among His people as the Good Shepherd using His Word and Sacraments to care for us. Through His continuing presence and ministry, Jesus leads His people to our eternal home in His nearer presence, where the Lamb, who is our Shepherd, will guide us to streams of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes.

### WELCOME

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd;

**People: I shall not want.**

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**People: He leads me beside still waters.**

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

**People: I will fear no evil,**

Pastor: for you are with me;

**People: Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Pastor: Surely good and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**People: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The Lord, my Shepherd,

**People: You call me by name as one of your own dear sheep. You are teaching me to recognize Jesus' voice and follow Him. Yet, because my sinful nature is alienated from you since birth, I find it so difficult to listen to you, much less to love and serve even the people nearest me. In fact, I often think, say, and do things that are hurtful both to me and the people around me. How then will I be able to stand before your throne on the Last Day in union with all your people from every nation, tribe, and language? Forgive and help me for Jesus' sake.**

Pastor: Beloved ones, Jesus has given you eternal life, and you will never perish, and no one will snatch you out of His hand. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE #804

#### "O Worship the King"

Stanzas 1, 2, 5

O worship the King, all glorious above.

O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;

Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,

Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. 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.**

(Be seated)

### **✠ WORD ✠**

#### **FIRST READING Acts 20:17–35** (Paul with the Ephesian elders)

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of

God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

**SECOND READING Revelation 7:9–17** (Sheep from every nation, tribe, people, and language) After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM** *"If You Will Trust the Lord to Guide You"* Kenneth Kosche

**10:30 ANTHEMS** *"God is So Good"* *"I Was Baptized"* *Grades 3K, 4K, K*  
(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL John 10:22–30** (Jesus and the Father are one.)

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying,

"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN #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!

#### SERMON "Listening To and Following the Voice of Jesus" John 10:22-30

(Rise)

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

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord, who in Christ promises goodness and mercy all the days of our lives until we dwell in His house forever.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . both now and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN #550

### "Lamb of God"

### Stanzas 1 & 3

Your 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.**

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*

(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 #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.

### **HYMN #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”**

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:  
Direct, protect, and feed my From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

### **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.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Thank you, Lamb of God, for feeding us with your own body and blood in  
this Sacrament and for using this meal as part of your holding on to us  
throughout our lives. Continue to lead us, Good Shepherd, by the sound  
of your voice to the green pastureland of God’s kingdom, where the  
nations will gather around your throne; for you live and reign with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give  
you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #924 “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”**

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.  
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Grant Gundersen, Heidi Leiser, Jim Laux
Acolytes	Abbie Moravec, Bree Novotny, Emily Reinhardt
Children's Message	Bethany Dillon
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
Grades 4K & K	Ellen VanDyke, Jo Shemanske