

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Lord Is My Shepherd

April 21 & 22, 2018

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

This Sunday in the Church Year is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday." The appointed Psalm for the day is Psalm 23, which is among the most well-known psalms. The Gospel from John 10 records Jesus revealing Himself as the Good Shepherd. While fewer and fewer people are familiar with what it is like to take care of sheep, this metaphor of God's protection and provision has become a great source of comfort and hope. God grant that you find such blessed comfort as you dwell securely here in the house of the Lord.

WELCOME

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you
for a reason for the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: He leads us to green pastures and still waters.

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: We listen to His voice.

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: He lays down His life for the sheep.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In this Easter season, celebration is always near our lips. We are glad to shout Alleluias in worship, but when we leave we do not always recognize our neighbors in need. We may close our hearts to them. We may reject them. We may fail to follow the example of our Good Shepherd. As we draw near to the Lord, let us consider our sins and ask God for His forgiveness. Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against you and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. You know our sins, and they are ever before you. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us as a shepherd leads his sheep.

Pastor: God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Good Shepherd. He has laid down His life for our forgiveness and has taken His life back up again in His glorious resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ 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. The Lord restores us and leads us in paths of righteousness. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Gloria In Excelsis"

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;

Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –

Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

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 4:1–12* (Peter proclaims Jesus as the stone that was rejected and has become the cornerstone.) And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else,

for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

EPISTLE *1 John 3:16–24* (Love one another as Christ has loved us.)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11–18* (Jesus is our Good Shepherd.) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON 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.

SERMON *“Loved and Led by the Good Shepherd”* *John 10:11-18*

(Rise)
APOSTLES' 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 God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised to hear our prayers offered through faith in the risen Christ. Almighty God, your Son is the Good Shepherd of his sheep. We give you thanks that he carries us close to his heart.

People: Bless us to trust in him and follow him and so fill our hearts with the gifts of divine peace and pardon.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for the renewal of the Church, asking that the Holy Spirit would move us all to be joyful witnesses of the Savior's resurrection victory.

People: Bless pastors, missionaries, and church workers all around the world to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray especially for Pastor Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer, that you would guide and protect them as they serve on the mission field.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we have prayed for more workers in the harvest fields and rejoice with vicars who receive their assignments and candidates who will receive their first call into the ministry this week.

People: Bless them in their calling and, if it be in accord with your will, bless us to receive a candidate who will serve as our next Associate Pastor and serve among us and with us for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed.

People: Bless our president, the congress, our judges, and all civil servants. Give them wisdom and integrity as they fulfill their calling in life.

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray for an end to abortion in our land, that our nation might again come to value every life from conception to natural death as a priceless gift from our Creator.

People: Bless Lutherans for Life, a Place of Refuge, and all organizations that uphold and support the life of the unborn and their mothers and fathers.

Pastor: God of every good and perfect gift, we join with Don and Pat as they celebrate 58 years of marriage along with the Heimsoth family in giving thanks to you for all your blessings.

People: Help us to recognize your abundant goodness, and live thankful lives of love and service towards others.

Pastor: We pray for people who do not know the Good Shepherd, that they would be brought to saving faith and come to experience with us the joy of living under his mercy, grace, and guidance.

People: Help each of us to share with others the love, joy, hope and peace we have in Christ.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for the lonely, the afflicted, those in prison, those persecuted for the faith and all the sick, especially

Carlene, RoseMarie, Bob, Tony, Nancy, Pat, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard, and Sarah, that the Holy Spirit would comfort them and grant them strength and healing.

People: Grant them peace and perseverance in their time of trial and use each of us to support and encourage them in their times of trouble and affliction.

Pastor: We pray for the Hurst family and for all who pass through the valley of the shadow of death, that through the companionship of their Good Shepherd they may have confidence in His victory over death and the grave.

People: Grant us all a deep conviction of faith that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, death is but the doorway to life in all its fullness for all those who believe in our Good Shepherd.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we pray for all who come today to the Lord's table to receive the body and blood of Christ, that through a faithful participation in His Holy Supper they may find grace and mercy and the peace of sins forgiven.

People: Grant us always to find joy and fulfillment in the life and salvation we receive through the sacrifice of our Lord embodied in his supper.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, we give thanks for all the faithful who have gone before us and who dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore.

People: We praise your holy name and look forward with joy to the day of resurrection and the life of the world to come.

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 ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 #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!

HYMN #484 "Make Songs of Joy"

Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Alleluia!
He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia!

Our life was purchased by His loss; Alleluia!
He died our death upon the cross. Alleluia!

O death, where is your deadly sting? Alleluia!
Assumed by our triumphant King! Alleluia!

And where your victory, O grave, Alleluia!
When one like Christ has come to save? Alleluia!

Behold, the tyrants, one and all, Alleluia!
Before our mighty Savior fall! Alleluia!

For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
The Father, and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

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!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith, that we may always follow you and never stray from your one flock; 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

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 “You’re My Good Shepherd”

You’re my Good Shepherd, I’m Your sheep, Always within the watch You keep
Over me even while I sleep. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You led me to a living stream, I heard Your voice give me a name:
“You are My own beloved lamb!” Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Goodness and mercy here surround Sheepfold and gate and grazing ground;
Ev’ry lost sheep is sought and found. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gather Your flock from ev’rywhere, Carefree within Your loving care,
One Shepherd’s life and joy to share. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Children’s Message
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Melissa Leon, Grant Gundersen
Kaden Hutchins, Lillia Carson
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince