

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Very Good Shepherd

April 25 & 26, 2015

5:00PM & 8:00AM

### AS WE GATHER

Good Shepherd Sunday evokes the comforting image of our risen Lord's mercy for us, His sheep. John says we see love displayed in the Good Shepherd's laying down His life for us. But there is another side to this Good Shepherd. For He is also the mighty Lord who destroyed sin and death by His resurrection from the dead. For with Peter and John before the temple officials, the same officials who had recently put Jesus to death, this resurrection faith translates into a boldness to witness and testify even in the face of threat of opposition. This day we praise our risen Lord, our Good Shepherd, by giving ourselves to "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done."

### WELCOME

#### The Third Pledge "I Am A Church Member"

I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.

### FELLOWSHIP GREETING

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #900 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.

Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we  
flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Savior, like a shepherd lead us;

**People: Much we need your tender care.**

Pastor: In your pleasant pastures feed us,

**People: For our use your fold prepare.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. Hear our plea for your mercy.

**People: Blessed Jesus, guardian of our way, keep us, your flock, from sin, and seek us out when we go astray. For we have lost our way by letting sin reign in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds, both by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free. We now turn to you for forgiveness. Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord is your Shepherd, your merciful and mighty Savior. He has taken all your sin and weakness into Himself, taken it away by His merciful death on the cross. Now by the might of His resurrection 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****“This Is the Feast”**

Pages 171-172

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

**People:** (sung)

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.

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.

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER 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.**

(Be seated)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**FIRST LESSON** *Acts 4:1–12* (Peter and John 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 and 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, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. The next day the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and

the other men 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 cripple and are 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. He is " 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**EPISTLE** *1 John 3:16–24* (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. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For 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 obey 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. Those who obey his commands live 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**

*“Jesus Is A Rock In A Weary Land”*

Jr. High Choir

**8:00**

*“Days of Elijah”*

St. Paul's Choir

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:11–18* (I am the Good Shepherd.) "I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. 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."

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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!

### SERMON "The Blessings of the Good Shepherd" John 10:11-18

(Rise)

### APOSTLES' CREED (found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

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

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O God of peace, who has brought again from death the great shepherd of your sheep, equip your Church this day with everything good and lead us by your good Spirit,

**People: that we may do your will, working in us that which is pleasing in your sight through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as the world has many false shepherds who seek to lead your people astray, help us to know our true Shepherd's voice and listen only to Him;

**People: have mercy on all those who have been deceived; open their hearts to your truth, that they may be led to the safety of the care of their Shepherd in the Church's fold.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as your Son gave His life for the sins of the whole world, let His voice be heard by those held in prison, that they, too, may know of His forgiving love and be brought into His flock;

**People: if they have been imprisoned for doing good, let them not lose hope or despair of your care, but strengthen and preserve them in the faith.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as our Good Shepherd takes up His lambs onto His shoulders in the waters of Holy Baptism, bless little ones to grow up in their salvation day by day.

**People: Sustain also all those shut-in or who reside in nursing homes with the truth that He will safely bear them through the latter years of this life.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as your Son has loved, help us to live in His love; keep us from hurting one another in word or deed;

**People: Fill our homes with his love and peace, rescue those who suffer harm in their own homes, and grant repentance to all those who raise their voices or hands to abuse those you have given them to love.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as your Son of His own accord has laid down His life for His sheep, give us confidence in His continued care, that we may not doubt but believe that He will never fail us; strengthen the sick and suffering in this truth, especially Gretchen, Eleanor, Hermine, Jack, Marge, Edith, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

**People: According to your good and gracious will, grant them help and healing, and fill them with hope and peace through faith in their Good Shepherd.**

Pastor: O God of peace, you have bestowed upon us all blessing after blessing. We rejoice with Don and Pat as they celebrate 55 years of marriage together.

**People: Grant us to rejoice in your goodness and bless all marriages by the love of Christ.**

Pastor: O God of peace, you entrust to us children who receive a Christian education here at St. Paul's. Bless our Voters' assembly as they extend a call to our next principal.

**People: According to your will, grant the candidate prayerful consideration of your call for him to serve among us.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as you gave your Son to be our Shepherd that He might lead us to the green pastures and still waters of life, help us to listen to His voice day by day.

**People: As He invites us to eat His body and drink His blood this day, grant each of us to know His peace now and forever.**

Pastor: O God of peace, as your Son laid down His life and took it up again to prepare a place for us in your house that we might live forever, comfort all those who grieve, especially Anna as she remembers her husband, John.

**People: Bless those who miss departed loved ones with the truth that our dear brothers and sisters in Christ are truly at home with you.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 #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 #740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me. Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away. Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me:  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

### HYMN #477 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled-  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat;  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

**HYMN #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; 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 #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.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Puppeteer  
Jr. High Choir Director  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Dan Vaclav, Grant Gundersen  
Bree Novotny, Cassy Barry  
Laurel Privatt  
Shannon Krueger  
Nancy Hoelke  
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