

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Our Good Shepherd

April 24 & 25, 2021

5:00PM & 8:00AM

AS WE GATHER

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one's self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

WELCOME

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. (2 Corinthians 4:13-14, ESV)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: By this we know love,

People: that He laid down His life for us.

Pastor: "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.

People: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Pastor: Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

People: And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

People: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to you that we have been ungrateful for all you give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Pastor: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

People: Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Pastor: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

People: We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Pastor: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

People: As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from you. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Pastor: Jesus Christ hears our cries and says to us, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Receive the forgiveness won for you through Christ’s laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of 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. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE #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.

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,

People: 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;

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 Acts 4:1–12 (Peter and John witness before the council.)

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM

“Sing Joy!”

Grades 3-5

EPISTLE 1 John 3:16–24 (Love one another.)

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And 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. ²⁴Whoever 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG "The Baa, Baa Song"

Refrain: Baa, baa, He's the Good Shepherd;

Ev'rywhere I go He knows.

Baa, baa, He is my Savior; I will follow where He goes.

Final Refrain: I will follow where He goes, I will follow where He goes. (Baaa)

Jesus loves me, finds me cares for me, watches, saves me, leads back home.

(Refrain) (Repeat refrain & 1st verse)

I was so lost, where do I begin? He paid the cost for my sin. **(Refrain)**

I was so scared, storms would frighten me. I will not fear, He's with me. **(Refrain)**

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11–18* (Jesus the Good Shepherd)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.¹² 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.¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.¹⁸ 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

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 "We All Want a Shepherd"

(Rise)

CATECHISM *Explanation of the First Article*

Pastor: Shepherds provide for all the needs of their flock. Out of His love, our creating God provides not only for our spiritual needs of faith and forgiveness, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social well-being. Believing in God the Father as creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, which we confess together:

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

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.

OFFERING Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

You are the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us out of love. Help us to hear your voice, follow where you lead, and receive what you provide through your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the times we fear our enemies and the powers against us, remind us that we belong to you and no one can snatch us from your hand. We bring before the Lord the part of your flock here in this place and others whom we love in their time of need, especially Don, Judy, Janine, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Arlene, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Carry them as lambs in a shepherd's arms through the difficult paths ahead. Give all wisdom to know the faithful path we are to take, and shepherd us through every trial, trouble, and temptation; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Give us courage that we not live in captivity to our fears; guide those who lead us in this and every land; provide peace, justice, and freedom for people everywhere. In our busy days, give us time to reflect upon the goodness of God and to experience joy in the security and peace you provide us, that we find contentment and peace in you; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and the public workers who keep our communities safe. Defend us from our enemies, and teach us to rely on your provision, the true protector of us all; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we do not forget those in need but share with all the Lord has entrusted to us and to display the kind of love shown and known that has no end; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life. We give you thanks for the birth of Olivia Meizen and for Caylee Ferry, bless these and all families to be strengthened and that your presence would be a constant reminder as they grow. Bless also George and Rosie Pups as they celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and lord, have mercy.

Pastor: We praise you that your kingdom grows, especially for the Baptism of Owen Halstead. That he would be nurtured in faith, and love you his whole life; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we recall the saints of old, who put their trust in the Lord, that we also be found faithful when He returns in glory; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That as we gather at the Table of the communion of saints for the forgiveness of sins, having faith to receive His gifts for the nourishment of our lives of faith now and to the life that is to come; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ 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

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. 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 #752 "Be Still, My Soul"

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul; the waves and winds
still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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.

HYMN #629 “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine; The cup of grace Brings
His embrace Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

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: By this we know love,

People: that He laid down His life for us.

Pastor: “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

People: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

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.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley

Pastor Harold Bender

Dan Vaclav, Debra Nier

Michelle Prince

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