

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Door and the Shepherd's Voice

April 29 & 30, 2023

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### AS WE GATHER

Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

If in Christ we have hope in this life only,  
we are of all people most to be pitied.  
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For as by a man came death,  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
1 Corinthians 15:19-21

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING 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!

(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: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

**People: He leads us and restores our souls.**

Pastor: He walks beside us through the darkness

**People: and never abandons us, even in death.**

Pastor: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

**People: and we will dwell in His house forever.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of sinful ways. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have strayed from you. We have wounded you with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.**

Pastor: Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

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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 2:42–47* (Devoted to the Apostles' teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of the bread) <sup>2</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Peter 2:19–25* (We are returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.) <sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; <sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. <sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**8:00 ANTHEM**

*“God is Great!”*

3K, 4k, K

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:1–10* (Jesus is the door of the sheep.)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**“Do You Know Who Died for Me?”**

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did  
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,  
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

**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**

**“The Voice of the Shepherd and the Thief”**

**John 10:1-10**

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED**

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see 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.

Loving Father, your Son is the great Shepherd of the sheep, who faithfully gathers His flock to Himself in the pastures of the Church. Grant us steadfast faith to hear His voice, follow Him, and turn away from every voice that would lead us astray. Even through the valley of the shadow of death, may His voice comfort us until we receive His abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Father, by the work of your Spirit through the Means of Grace, you daily add to the number of believers. Grant your people courageous hearts and bold tongues to proclaim your truth, trusting that you will gather more in keeping with your gracious will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Shepherd of Israel, you have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, beautiful and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for your glory and, in service to the Gospel, testify to your saving death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, you hold in your hands all the might of man, and you hold accountable those who would govern your people. Grant to us good government and leaders who will honor your purpose, protect your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Good Shepherd, we thank you for all the abundant blessings you bestow upon us in this earthly life. We especially rejoice with Gary and Wendy as they celebrate their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Bless them and all couples to live in holy love. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Shepherd, your wounds are our healing and your voice our certainty. Hear us on behalf of those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve, or to whom death draws near. We pray especially for Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah and those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing according to your will, grace to sustain them, and the sure hope of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, in the wake of your Son's resurrection, your people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Unite your people in the one true faith, and grant penitent hearts to all who come to receive the Sacrament this day. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, as you have put our sins to death in Christ's body on the tree, so bring life to our faith by His Spirit, that in your continual grace we may bring forth the fruit of holy lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** 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

### PAX DOMINI

**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 HYMNS

### HYMN #726 "Evening and Morning"

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,  
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:  
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!  
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,  
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,  
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;  
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors  
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.  
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;  
As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;  
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me;  
Though billows tower, And winds gain power,  
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.  
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing:  
These shall I treasure And share in full measure  
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!  
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer  
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.  
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;  
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him  
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

### HYMN #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:  
Direct, protect, and feed me 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 #617      “O Lord, We Praise Thee”**

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
and Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!  
Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!  
May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav’nly minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have led us  
to the green pastures and still waters of this Meal, and we pray that you  
would continue to lead us on the paths of righteousness, following your  
voice, devoted wholly to you; 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 #861      “Christ Be My Leader”**

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care,  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
John Gieschen, Krystal Wilson, Katie Librizzi  
JoLynn Bender

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