

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
No One Will Snatch Them from My Hand
May 10 & 11, 2025
5:00PM & 9:00AM

AS WE GATHER

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

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

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6: 9-11

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray;

People: we have turned every one to his own way;

Pastor: and the LORD has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross

People: that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Silence for reflection and examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die 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.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: Amen.

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 *Proverbs 31:10-31*

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.¹⁵ She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.¹⁷ She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.²² She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.²³ Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:²⁹ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS – Lance Romano (5pm); Eliza Carson (9am)

SECOND READING *Revelation 7:9–17* (The Lamb who sits on the throne shall be their Shepherd.)⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation

belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵"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 shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:22–30* (No one can snatch the sheep out of the Shepherd's hand.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"He Is Lord"

W&R 305

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! *Repeat*

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

"Always in Loving Hands"

John 10:22-30

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

NICENE CREED

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)

OFFERING 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 all of God's people and for all people in their need: Heavenly Father, your Son purchased us with His own most holy blood, and He now leads us through the gate of death to our eternal home with you.

People: **As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly, trust His Word and promises, and to follow Him steadfastly through all our days.**

Pastor: Lord God, Shepherd of souls, your apostle Paul foretold that fierce opposition and twisted speech would come against your Church, even from within her own fold.

People: **Raise up faithful men to pastor your flock through these threats, and grant that they would not shrink from proclaiming the Truth in all its fullness.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, you have given us a mirror of your love in the vocation of mothers who nurture, guide and raise their children in all things good. Bless them in their calling. Sustain them through weary and difficult times. Bless Al as he remembers his mother, Eleanor. Remember in compassion all who are barren, and bring them comfort by your Spirit.

People: **Inspire us to treasure godly mothers and love and respect the mothers you have given us.**

Pastor: O God, our King, you are Lord of all peoples, nations and tribes. Grant wisdom and truth to those who rule this land, that they may faithfully promote good and punish evil. Wherever our laws are contrary to your will, reform them for the good of our nation.

People: **Bless us to live as good citizens, respectful of all in authority and loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Pastor: O Lord, you have not forgotten us in our afflictions or abandoned us in our weakness. Deliver the sick and suffering according to your will, and give comfort to the dying, especially we pray for those who have requested our prayers including Ian, Deaconess Carole, Paula, Katherine, Wendy, Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy and Sarah. Grant them healing, hope and peace in their difficulties.

People: **Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in the days of our trouble as we await your perfect healing in the life to come.**

Pastor: Lord of all the living, you shepherd your saints through the gate of death, out of all tribulation, to the very throne room of heaven.

People: **Bless those who grieve and give them eyes of faith to see the death in light of the resurrection of your Son.**

Pastor: O Lord, our Shepherd, you calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and you prepare the table of our Lord's body and blood in the presence of our enemies.

People: Grant us repentant and faithful hearts, that we may hear our Shepherd's voice and follow him all our days until we dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pastor: Lord, enthroned in heaven, you gather your saints into the shelter of your presence, making them white in the blood of the Lamb.

People: Keep us faithful throughout our lives here, and bring us through death to join them in the ceaseless praises of heaven.

Pastor: O Lord, you promised to raise up a shepherd to deliver your sheep from all their enemies. We give you thanks for giving us your own Son to be our Good Shepherd. Grant us to hear His voice, know Him by faith and follow where He leads, that He may deliver us into your arms forever; 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, our duty, and our delight to give you thanks and praise at all times and in every place, almighty God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for you fulfilled your promise to shepherd your people in love, forgiving their sins and securing them in your grace and favor by your Word and Sacraments. Therefore with the angels and archangels, apostles and prophets, and all the great cloud of witnesses who have loved your appearing and died in faith, we join in their unending hymn of praise, joyfully singing:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

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 #725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

HYMN #482**“This Joyful Eastertide”**

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain **Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks for providing for us your own Son to be our Shepherd and Lord. Grant that through the means of grace and those undershepherds who administer them to us we may continue to be fed and nourished to eternal life and bring us at last to that day when we shall gather as one in your presence on high, without trouble or trial to afflict us, and we shall

know His love face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 you 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.

CLOSING HYMN #862**“Oh, Blest the House”**

Oh, blest the house, whate’er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children’s foremost need
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav’n be lost!

Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children’s lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Students of St. Paul’s Lutheran School
JoLynn Bender

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