

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
His Path through the Valley to the House
May 7 & 8, 2022
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

It is Good Shepherd Sunday, and the familiar twenty-third Psalm is echoed throughout our worship. Our Lord went through the valley of the shadow of death in our place, leading from death to eternal life. There is work to do before we get to eternity, for following our Shepherd entails confessing our faith even when death's shadow falls on us. It means vigilance against wolves attacking amid Christ's flock, as Paul warns in the First Reading. But in his vision, John tells us that Christ is now the victorious Lamb on His eternal throne. We can be confident that what we believe by faith we shall know by experience in the unending joy of the Father's house.

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 were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:4-5 ESV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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!**

1 continued

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**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & EASTER ACCLAMATION

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!

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd;

People: I shall not want.

Pastor: For the Lamb in the midst of the throne

People: will be their shepherd,

Pastor: and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

People: And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Lord, our God,

People: we confess that we have strayed from hearing the voice of your Son, our Shepherd, who went through death to eternal life for us. We have failed to trust in you fully. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us and renew in us faith and trust. Grant us to hear anew our Shepherd's voice and to follow wherever He leads, until we see Him with you in your eternal house.

Pastor: Fellow sheep within Christ's fold, our Lord Jesus was God's sacrificial Lamb and has gone through death, paying for the sins of all people, and He now reigns in eternity. Therefore, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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 20:17–35* (Paul commends the word of grace to the church overseers as they care for the flock.) ¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions

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await me.²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Revelation 7:9–17* (On the heavenly throne, John sees the Lamb who has conquered death and become the 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!”

¹¹ And 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, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I 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. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM "The Good Shepherd"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:22-30* (Jesus affirms that no one following His voice can be snatched from Him. He and the Father are one.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So 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." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My 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. ³⁰ I 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

"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.**

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

Refrain

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

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

"Deliver Us"

Acts 20:17-35

(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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in your name 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. As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly and to follow Him steadfastly through every tribulation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, Shepherd of souls, your servant Paul entrusted his flock to the care of faithful men, urging them to follow him in the way of Christ. Bless your Church under the care of her pastors, and instill in them all wisdom, fortitude, humility and grace. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, you have provided us with the gift of family. Bless those who have shown us a mother's love and nurtured our lives from childhood. Bless and protect all mothers with child, all those who have suffered miscarriage or the death of a child, and all those who have yearned for a child and lived with the pain of this unfulfilled longing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, you will not allow any power or enemy to triumph over your saving purpose or snatch your lambs from your hand. Give us wise and faithful leaders who will govern in our land according to your Law and defend the lives of the unborn, the orphaned, the widowed and the aged. Bless all those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may not hinder your purpose. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, 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 your comfort to the dying, especially to those who have requested our prayers including Brian, Steve, Dorothy, Norma, Vern, Brian, Amy, Cathy, Jim, Vern, Mike, Elaine, Dorothy, Cindy, Don, Shirley, Richard, Helga, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Sarah, Debbie, Steve, Mary, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in the days of our trouble as we await your perfect healing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, by your grace bless all who receive our Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament this day. As they receive the same body and blood given into death and raised again for their justification, grant them the joy of the forgiveness of sins and the power of an endless life. Help them by this Sacrament to live out their baptismal life, dying in repentance and being raised in the faith. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, enthroned in heaven, you gather your saints into the shelter of your presence, making them white in the blood of the Lamb. Keep us faithful throughout our lives here, and bring us through death to join them in the ceaseless praises of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving Father, you are the comfort of those who grieve. Bless and be with the family and friends of Mary Anne Goede. Give them your peace, console them in their loss, and fill them with hope and joy of the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

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.

HYMN #641 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain: **You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. **Refrain**

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav'nly food. **Refrain**

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity. **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. 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.

People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING 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.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Doug Bender, Grant Gundersen
Michelle Prince

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