

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

WELCOME and GREETING

A PRAYER AS WE ARE GATHERED

Jesus, Good Shepherd of the Sheep, we thank you for your loving care and guidance, for your protection and ceaseless love for us. We give thanks that you did not wait until we came to you but, like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, you came out and found us and brought us home.

We rest confident of your care, reassured that you are not only love, but that you are love for us, because of this **we shall not want**. For the gift of our salvation, for the gift of your presence in our worship and in our daily lives, we give thanks. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:3-11

Pastor: *A voice says, "Cry out."*

People: **And I said, "What shall I cry?"**

Pastor: *"All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.*

People: **The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."**

Pastor: *You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"*

People **See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.**

Pastor: *He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that have young.*



OPENING HYMN

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

[LSB 740]

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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△ REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM please stand

Pastor: *In Christ Jesus we are all children of God, through faith. For as many of us as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Galatians 3:26,27

People: **Amen.**

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Pastor: *Let us then call upon the One whose name we are baptized, the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit, who receives us into communion with Himself.*

People: **Thank you Lord for the love and forgiveness, life and salvation, that has been bestowed upon us, for we know Baptism gives these blessings to all who believe God's saving promise.**

Pastor: *This is most certainly true.*

People: **Amen!!**

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Pastor: *Listen to what the LORD says:
"Stand up, plead your case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.
Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.
For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against them.
"My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.
I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery." **Micah 6:1-4***

Pastor: *Let us come before God, turning to Him, seeking His forgiveness, that by grace He may amend our ways, "that we may know the saving acts of the LORD." **Micah 6:5b***

People: **With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

Pastor: *He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*
Micah 6:6-8

All: **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may follow where He leads until that time when we, by His grace, will come to dwell in Your house forever.**

Pastor: *Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sin and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

People: **Amen.**



INTROIT

Pastor: *I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me, and
I lay down my life for the sheep.*
John 10:14

People: **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.**

Pastor: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

People: **Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Pastor: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Psalm 23***

KYRIE

Pastor: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love.*

People: **His steadfast love endures forever;** *Psalm 51:1*

Pastor: *Have mercy on me, O God,*

People: **Have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. *Psalm 57:1***

Pastor: *He gives food to all flesh,*

People: **Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to You all day long.**

Pastor: *Turn to me and have mercy on me;*

People: **Grant Your strength to Your servant. *Psalm 86:3,16***

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

[LSB 900]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COLLECT

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

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! please be seated**

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON *Acts 4:1-24*

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."

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

Reader: *This is the Word of the LORD.*

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON *1 John 3:16-24*

Pastor: *This is how we know who the children of God are.
 And who the children of the devil are:*

**People: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God;
 nor is anyone who does not love his brother.**

Pastor: *This is the message you heard from the beginning:*

People: We should love one another!

Pastor: *Do not be like Cain,
who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.
And why did he murder him?*

People: **Because his own actions were evil
and his brother's were righteous.**

Pastor: *Do not be surprised, my brothers,
if the world hates you.*

People: **We know that we have passed from death to life,
because we love our brothers.**

Pastor: *Anyone who does not love remains in death.
Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.
This is how we know what love is:*

People: **Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.**

Pastor: *If we have material possessions and see our brother in need
but have no pity on him,*

People: **how can the love of God be in us?**

Pastor: *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.*

People: **For God is greater than our hearts,
and he knows everything.**

Pastor: *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:

People: **To believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and to love one another as he commanded us.**

Pastor: *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them.
And this is how we know that he lives in us:*

People: **We know it by the Spirit he gave us.**

Pastor: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

△ **THE HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:11-18* please stand

People: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"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."

At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Pastor: *This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.** *please be seated*



SERMON HYMN

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

[LSB 709]

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever. | 4 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. |
| 2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth. | 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth! |
| 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me. | 6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever! |

△ **CONFESSION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed please stand

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.**

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen. please be seated

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.*

Pastor : *Lord in your mercy...*

ALL: ... hear our prayer.

Pastor : *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your
mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

ALL: Amen.

△ **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

BLESSING *John 10 and Psalm 23*

Pastor: *I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me, and
I lay down my life for the sheep.*

People: **The LORD is my shepherd;
 I shall not want.**

Pastor: *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.*

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life:
 And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

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.*

ALL: **Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN *“The Lord’s Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”* [LSB 763]

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 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. | 3 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. |
| 2 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. | 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows. |
| 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be. | |

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△ SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-WORSHIP MUSIC