



# COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday, May 3, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Online Edition

## WELCOME

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

## INTRODUCTION

*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ.

Let us confess our sin to God, who is faithful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God our helper, we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have faltered in the face of suffering. We have given up hope too readily. We have helped our friends but ignored strangers. We have lost ourselves in the love of our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you intend for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. In Christ's + name your sins are forgiven. By the power of the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness of life to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *The Lord's My Shepherd* (ELW 778)

## The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984  
Arr. © Oxford University Press.

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## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

**The sea is yours for you made it; and your hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from Acts.

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia. Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.\* I know my own and my | own know me. Alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (BRADBURY) (ELW 789)*

Savior, like A Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites (*local colleges and seminaries may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations (*local ministries may be named*). May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.  
Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (ELW 883)

## All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times  
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the

praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.  
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594  
 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561