

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 25, 2021 11:00 AM
LSB Divine Service Setting One (page 151)



**FOR THOSE DESIRING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT
HOLY COMMUNION**

OF
wine
those
love

(The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:17–34.)

THINK ABOUT THIS

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one's self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC. "Psalm 100" (based on Psalm 100)

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

Enter in through the gates

Enter in here with praise

Come before Him, come bring your song

We are His people, He is our God.

Chorus:

For the Lord is good and His love endures

His love endures

For the Lord is good and His love endures

His love endures forevermore

His faithfulness, it has no end

For the Lord is good and His love endures

His love endures.

**Enter in to His courts
Enter in with grateful hearts
Come before Him, come bring your song
We are His people, He is our God. Chorus:**

**Bridge:
Raise Your voice!
Shout for joy all the earth!
We sing a new song now,
We sing a new song now!
Raise Your voice!
Shout for joy all the earth!
We sing a new song now,
We sing a new song now! Chorus:**

“Better is One Day” (based on Psalm 84 & 27:4)
(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)
**How lovely is Your dwelling place,
oh Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied,
within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings**

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (repeat)**

**One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells
One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells**

**Bridge:
My heart and flesh cry out, for You the living God
Your spirit's water for my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You**

WELCOME

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES 1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

By this we know love,

that He laid down His life for us.

“I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalms 23; John 10:11

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ's laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE "Gentle Shepherd"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**Keep us safe on the journey,
give us shelter when the day is done.
Lead us out, out of the darkness;
open our eyes when the morning comes,
show us the sun.**

**Gentle Shepherd, show us the way.
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow and strength for today.
Gentle Shepherd, show us Your grace.**

**When we fall, lift us up, Lord.
When we wander, bring us home again.
Give us love for one another;
Show us Your heart, help us understand
Merciful Friend.**

**Gentle Shepherd, show us the way.
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow and strength for today.
Gentle Shepherd, show us Your grace. Your face.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. They are Yours, and nothing will snatch them from Your hand. In the love You've shown and the perfect love we know through Your Spirit, empower Your flock to reach others, that all

may be guided by Your shepherding grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his

commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to...

Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11–18

11 [Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

CHILDREN'S SONG "This is the Day" () shows the echo

(Repeat Once)

This is the day, (this is the day)

That the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)

I will rejoice (I will rejoice)

And be glad in it (and be glad in it)

This is the day that the Lord has made

I will rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day (this is the day) that the Lord has made

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG

"You Never Let Go" *(based on Psalm 23)*

(Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

Your perfect love is casting out fear,

And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life.

I won't turn back, I know You are near.

Pre-Chorus:

And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me,

And if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear?

Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus:

Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm.

Oh no, You never let go, in ev'ry high and ev'ry low.

Oh no, You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,

A glorious light beyond all compare,

And there will be an end to these troubles,

But until that day comes, we'll live to know You here on the earth.

Pre-Chorus & Chorus

Bridge:

**Yes, I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on,
And there will be an end to these troubles,
But until that day comes, still I will praise You,
Still I will praise you. (repeat Bridge)**

Chorus:

MESSAGE **“By This We Know Love” (1 John 3:16–24)**

(The offering will be received at the end of the service)

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Grant us peace. (repeat)

RECEIVING THE LORD’S SUPPER

SONG

“Forever Reign”

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus, Chorus)

**You are good, You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love, You are love
On display for all to see
You are light, You are light
When the darkness closes in**

**You are hope, You are hope
You have covered all my sin**

**You are peace, You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true, You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy, You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life, You are life,
In You death has lost its sting**

Chorus:

**Oh, I'm running to Your arms,
I'm running to Your arms.
The riches of Your love
Will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign**

**You are more, You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord, You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here, You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God, You are God
Of all else I'm letting go (Chorus x2)**

Bridge:

**My heart will sing
no other Name
Jesus, Jesus (repeated 4 times, then Chorus x2)**

BLESSING AND PEACE

May the true body and true blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart in His peace.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKS

We give thanks to You, Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, that You have fed us with Your own body and blood, which You freely gave up for us by Your perfect love for Your flock. We pray that by this gift our faith be strengthened and we be enabled to live for Your glory as we faithfully follow where You lead. Grant that others be brought into Your flock as Your Spirit works within us, who with You and the Father are one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

SONG **“To the Only God”** (based on Jude 24-25)

(repeat once, then ending)

**To the Only God
Who is able to keep us
Able to keep us from falling
To the Only God
Be all glory and honor
Majesty and power
For all ages now and forevermore.**

Ending:

**Forevermore. Be all glory, and honor,
majesty and power.
For all ages now, and forevermore.
Forevermore**

LEAVING *(Please wait to be dismissed row-by-row. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.)*

OFFERING *(The offering plates are in the back of the church).*

St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS
Pastor: Cameron K. Steele
DCE & Bass: Greg Arnett
Guitar: E.J. Fisch
Song Leader: Chris Carpenter
Drums: Aaron Barrigar
Sound: Cathy Arnett

Caro, Michigan
CCLI#277564

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