

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024 8:30 am

FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

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 wine 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 those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love 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 Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

THINK ABOUT THIS

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “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.**

WELCOME

INVOCATION *(Please stand)*

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48

Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. 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.

SONG OF PRAISE “Once Again” *(Please be seated)*

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

**Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I’ve wondered at Your gift of life,
And I’m in that place once again.
I’m in that place once again.**

Chorus:

**Once again I look upon the cross where You died.
I’m humbled by Your mercy and I’m broken inside.
Once again I thank You, once again I pour out my life.**

**Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I’ll bow.
But, for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
And I’m full of praise once again.
I’m full of praise once again. Chorus:**

Bridge

**Thank You for the cross. Thank you for the cross.
Thank You for the cross, my Friend. (repeat) Chorus:**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep; they are Yours. Empower Your church to reach every sheep that belongs to You and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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.

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.

John 10:11–18 *(Please stand)*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

CHILDREN'S SONG "He is Lord" *(Please be seated)*

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.

He's my....

He's our...

OBJECT LESSON

SONG "All Hail the Lamb"

All hail the Lamb, enthroned on high;
His praise shall be our battle cry.
He reigns victorious, forever glorious.
His name is Jesus, He is the Lord,
He is the Lord. *(Repeat)*

MESSAGE "I Know My Own" (John 10:11-18)

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

PRAYERS *(Please stand)*

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 AGNUS DEI

O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us

O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER *(Please be seated)*

SONG "10,000 Reasons" based on Psalm 103

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Ending)

Chorus

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, oh my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before, oh my soul

I worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes *Chorus*

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *Chorus***

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore *Chorus***

Ending:

**Yes, I will worship Your holy name
Lord, I worship Your holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I worship Your holy name
Yes, I will worship Your holy name
Lord I worship Your holy name**

SONG "Shout to the Lord"

(repeat once)

**My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My comfort, my Shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

PRAYER OF THANKS *(Please stand)*

Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve You all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

BLESSING

SONG "May The Peace of God" *(Please remain standing)*

(verse, refrain, verse, refrain)

**May the peace of God our heavenly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within His Love. Refrain:**

Refrain:

**And to Him be praise for His glorious reign
From depths of earth to the heights of heaven.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain –
Christ eternal, the King of kings.**

**May the peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of His communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart. Refrain**

LEAVING

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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