

# Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021 Morning Prayer

# Thanksgiving for the Word: Easter

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, *Ps.* 92:5 proclaiming freedom from captivity, *Exod.* 5:1 becoming the song of your people. *Ps.* 118:4 We praise you, O God, for your Word. We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your Word is made flesh among us:

with Mary in the garden, you call us by name. *John 20:16*With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe. *John 20:17*With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice. *John 10:16*Your Word names our death and our life: *John 5:24*a seed that falls into the earth and dies, *John 12:24*rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth, *Isa. 55:10*a vine in which we abide. *John 15:5*Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. *John 15:16*We bless you, O God, for your Word.

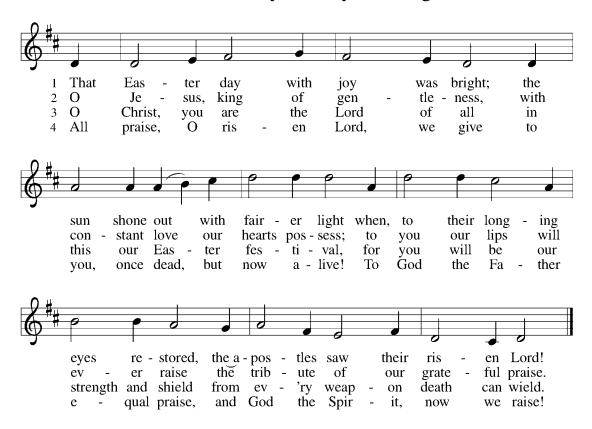
We bless you, O God, for your Word.

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. *Luke 24:48*Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. *John 20:22*Open our minds to understand the scriptures. *Luke 24:45*Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life. *1 John 1:1*Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action. *1 John 3:18*With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, *Rev. 5:13* we join in the hymn of all creation, as we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.

SONG -

# That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

#### DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### **PSALMODY**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings. **Oh, come, let us worship and praise.** 

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **O that today you would listen to his voice!** 

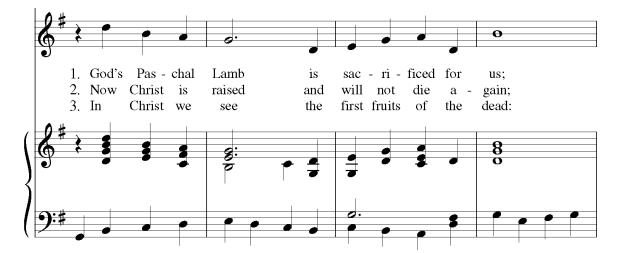
The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings. **Oh, come, let us worship and praise.** 

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

- <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.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE** – God's Paschal Lamb





### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### **READINGS**

### First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ielet it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

### Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

# Gospel: John 10:11-18

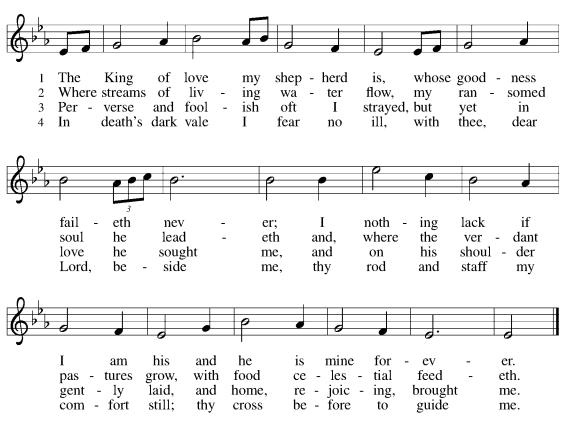
In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

#### SERMON

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY -**

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: St. Columba, Irish tune

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Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

#### **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

#### **PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

Other intercessions may be added.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

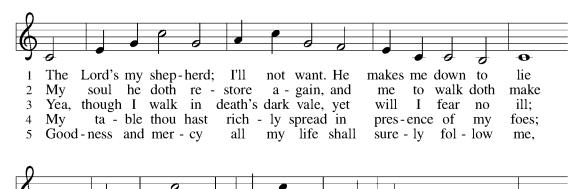
#### **BLESSING**

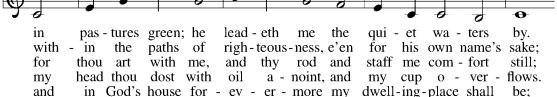
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

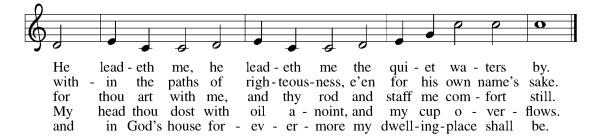
May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

# Song -

### The Lord's My Shepherd







Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

#### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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