

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.

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.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in the font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn - *My Shepherd will supply my need*



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____

mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
 or a guest, but like a child at home.____

The Presider says, and the people, "unmuted," respond

Pastor: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The following is sung

Christ our Passover

Descant

3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:

1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain;
 3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:

though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in

There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for -
 death has no more do - min - ion o - ver him; Through
 though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in

Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

sak - ing sin, we share the bread of truth. Al -
 him we die to sin and live to God. Al -
 Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Acts

2:42-47

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Acts

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23 – We speak together

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 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. 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.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

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. 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. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

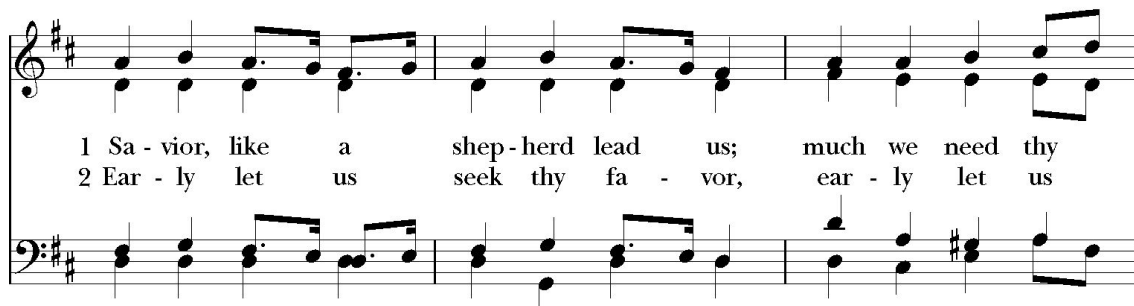
John 10:1-10

Jesus said, “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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

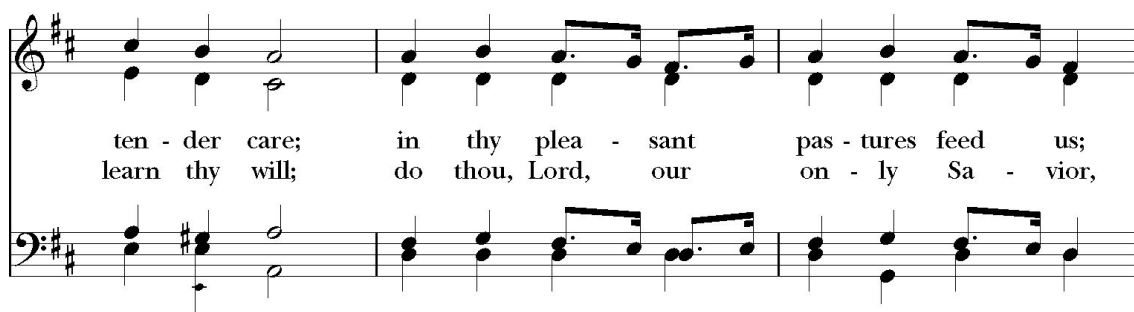
So again, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Sermon

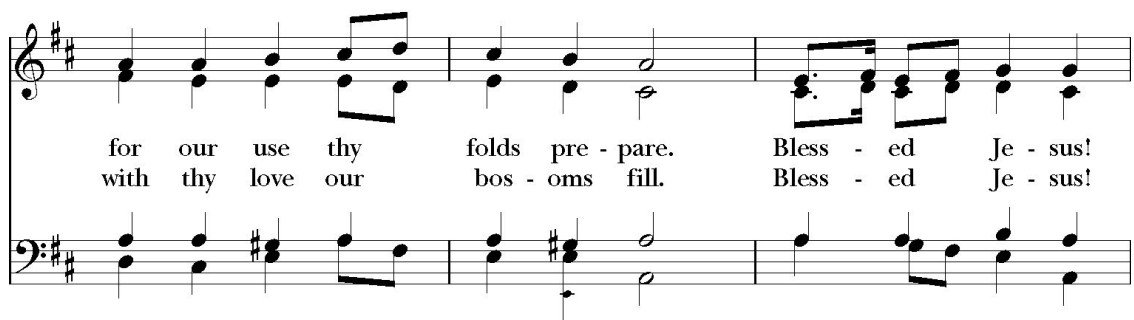
Hymn - *Savior, like a shepherd lead us*



1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us



ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,



for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Words: *Hymn for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt. Music: *Sicilian Mazurka*, Sicilian melody, from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1797.

Nicene Creed – We speak together:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Intercessory Prayer amid the spread of COVID-19 (The Lutheran World Federation)

O God our Healer show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to**

our prayer.

Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases, malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, cancer, heart disease and others [may be named out loud or in silence]... that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: caregivers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions. Protect and guard all those who must travel. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and amid turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort

their loved ones in their despair. Hear our cry, **O God, Listen to our prayer.**

Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer: *The Pastor says, "As our risen Savior has taught us, we boldly pray,"*

Our Father...

Blessing

May God who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Announcements, and Online "Coffee Hour!"