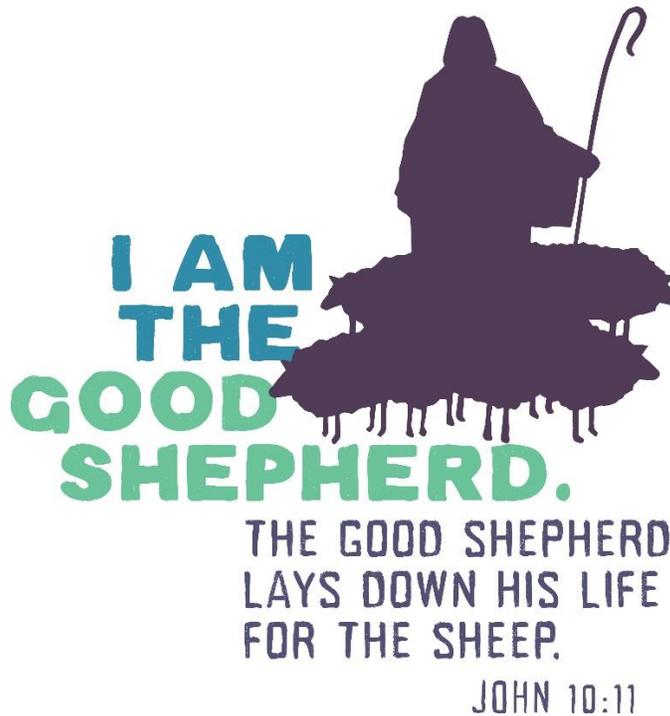


OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Easter
“Good Shepherd Sunday”
April 25, 2021

Thought: *Jesus is the Good Shepherd who exemplifies love and leadership in his self-giving: he offers up his life on behalf of his flock. His intimacy with and knowledge of his flock is analogous to the Father’s intimacy and knowledge of Jesus, the Son. The church, his flock, is invited to imitate Jesus’ rhythm of giving up his life and receiving it anew.*



Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

OR

Music – Have No Fear Little Flock

https://youtu.be/Z_deJPIoBDg

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Good Shepherd’s Peace

Call to Worship

A: A good shepherd never abandons his sheep.

C: Good Shepherd, we are suffering; care for us!

A: A good shepherd never abandons her sheep.

C: Good Shepherd, we are hopeful; rejoice with us!

A: A good shepherd never abandons his sheep.

C: Good Shepherd, we are anxious; call our name!

A: The good shepherd never abandons her sheep.

C: Good Shepherd, we are lost; show us the way!

As Your flock, we gather for worship.

Music – My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

(Mississippi College Singers)

<https://youtu.be/j9XUSIzeRQ8>

Invocation

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

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

P: You called your Son, O Father. You called his name.

C: And ears, once dead, harkened to your voice.

P: Now our Shepherd lives! Now our Shepherd calls.

C: Ears, once deafened by this world's clatter, harken to the calling of our own names.

P: Grant that we may now not only hear the calling of our Shepherd,

C: but listen.

P: Not only listen,

C: but follow.

P: Then we will do our shepherd's bidding:

C: to rescue the lost sheep, to heal the injured lambs,

P: and to lead your flock to green pastures of knowledge...

C: ...to still waters of understanding.

P: Make your sheep shepherds.

C: Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, Savior and Lord. Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

The Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and amen.

Hymn of Praise – Lord of All Hopefulness – Peter Anderson

https://youtu.be/9-D_aT8CXyc

Prayer of the Day

A: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and
guide us into your fold.

**C: 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.**

The Word

First Reading – Acts 4:5-12 *Salvation in the name of Jesus*

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

Second Reading – 1 John 3:16-24

Love in truth and action

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ 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?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 10:11-18

Jesus the Good Shepherd

<https://youtu.be/WrEmwEGsCLU>

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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 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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time – “I Don’t Wanna Grow Up!”

https://youtu.be/_HtFa5pxoPg

Homily – “In A Mirror Dimly – Who Does All These Things!”

<https://youtu.be/aoEVYjC10Qc>

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (*in unison*)

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Music – Shepherd Me, O God – Haugen (James Biery)

<https://youtu.be/hQid6VgHNec>

The 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

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering/Offertory Prayer

A: Our cup overflows, Heavenly Father –

C: a cup poured by your own hand.

A: Use these gifts, we pray.

C: Let them spill out as signs of our praise.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface Music – Let Us Break Bread Together

https://youtu.be/413cT_TQraY

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

The 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Distribution

Communion Music

Gift of Finest Wheat – You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

<https://youtu.be/FWR1jMRfWdk>

Here is Bread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9nOWL30EP8>

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

A: You offer so much more than green pastures, O Shepherd,

C: so much more than still waters.

A: In this meal we are offered a taste of that which awaits us –

C: “in the house of the Lord...forever.”

A: There we will bless you evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – Numbers chapter 6

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Music – If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Fountainview Academy

https://youtu.be/zFPe_G-Lqcc

Dismissal

A: Where do we begin to tell the story of God’s love for us?

C: By knowing that in Jesus, we have the Good Shepherd and should share that love with others.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

OR

Hallelu, Let the People All Sing – National Lutheran Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEgrToLCHFk>

