

**Good Shepherd Sunday**  
**April 21, 2024**



**Thought:** *We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God, who calls us each by name, who restores our souls, who leads us in the way of righteousness, and whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us. This is the God we have come to worship!*

*Whenever you feel lost and alone, remember that you have a good shepherd who walks ahead of you.*

**Prelude – Jill Rimington**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

P: Jesus the Good Shepherd as we gather says: Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the Good Shepherd's peace with one another.

## Call to Worship

L: Shout with joy to the Lord!  
Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing with joy!  
Know that the Lord is God!

**C: He made us, and we are his.  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

**C: For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.**

**Gathering Hymn** – “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”  
ELW# 502 vss. 1-3 &6

<https://youtu.be/WLdPoQnylnA>  
by 7 p.m. Sunday Choir

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: O God our good shepherd, we confess that we have strayed from your will, wandering off to pursue our own ways.

*A time of silence for reflection*

P: We have failed to listen to your voice and follow in your path.

**C: We have ignored the needs of our neighbors. We have resisted your gentle guidance. We have sought to stay in when you have tried to lead us out, and we have stayed out on our own when you have sought to lead us in to your love. We have viewed those who differ from us with suspicion and fear. In your mercy, forgive us. Lead us in your ways of mercy, love, and peace.**

P: Sisters and brothers, our Lord Jesus Christ personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.

By his wounds you are healed!

Once you were like sheep who wandered away.

But now you have returned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn of Praise** – “Have No Fear, Little Flock”      ELW #764

<https://youtu.be/7hEYj3jcZTg>

by Immanuel Lutheran Church

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: 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.**

### **Preparing for the Word**

L: Bearer of love beyond imagining, spreading the feast of life before the world:

**C: Christ of the people, Christ who never lets us go.**

L: Wonder of grace that spreads across the earth, embracing the rejected, holding close the lonely:

**C: Christ of the people, Christ who never lets us go.**

L: Love eternal, love that never fails, costly love reaching out to all who wait:

**C: Christ of the people, Christ who never lets us go, we worship you in spirit, in truth and the Word.**

## The Word

### First Reading – Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John have been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>let 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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘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.”

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

### Psalm 23

*I am who I am. The Lord is my Shepherd.*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

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

**3 he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**

**4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

**5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou anointest 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 forever.**

## Second reading – 1 John 3:16-24

*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>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.

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

## Holy Gospel – John 10:11-18

<https://youtu.be/V0sVdmfjxfc?si=GeGAAI1IOI39XZBN>

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

*I am the good shepherd I know my own and my own know me.*

[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.”

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

## **Children of God Time**

[https://youtu.be/fDhX3keWLHM?si=t3Pb3FOr4-2m\\_veQ](https://youtu.be/fDhX3keWLHM?si=t3Pb3FOr4-2m_veQ)

**Message** – “The Lord is MY Shepherd”

<https://youtu.be/tFXvghitpwo?si=wdTqQtasw0KZQeuv>

**Hymn of the Day** – “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

ELW #782

<https://youtu.be/nXUyuLiaWol>

by First-Plymouth Church

## **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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

L: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

**Offering/Offertory Music** – “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” ELW #767

### **Offertory Prayer**

L: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

**C: May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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**

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

### **Consecration**

#### **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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **Distribution**

**Communion Music** – Jill Rimington

**Post Communion Blessing** – Pastor

### **Post Communion Prayer**

L: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.

**C: Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

(based on Hebrews 13:2-21 NLT)

P May the God of peace-  
Who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood-  
may he equip you with all you need for doing his will.  
May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him.

**C: All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW #543

<https://youtu.be/Kd-FANyN1VU>

by First-Plymouth Church

### **Dismissal**

L: The Good Shepherd calls you by name. We listen and follow to serve.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** – Jill Rimington

I am the good  
shepherd: the good  
shepherd gives his  
life for the sheep.

John 10:11

