



**HOLY COMMUNION
APRIL 30, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **Merciful God, we come to Your table trusting not in our own righteousness, but in Your abundant mercy. Grant us so to eat and drink the body and blood of Your dear Son, that we may live in Him and He in us, now and forever. Amen.***

CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

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. He spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

PRAISE TIME (10:30) (Praise Band)

1. "There's Something About That Name" (favorite) .. **Majesty # 175**
2. "We Will Glorify" (favorite) **Majesty # 215**
3. "Great Is the Lord" (favorite) **Majesty # 53**
4. "Jesus, Name Above All Names" (favorite) **Majesty # 183**
5. "His Name Is Wonderful" (favorite) **Majesty # 173**

GATHERING HYMN (Please rise.)

"Savior, Like A Shepherd, Lead Us" (favorite) **SBH # 524**

INVOCATION (= All may make the sign of the cross.)

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of life, **C: in raising Jesus from the tomb, You make everything new. We confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises. We shut our doors in fear. We resist the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive. Sin and death have lost their power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C: AMEN.

GREETING (Please rise.)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: 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.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Let all the peoples praise him.” (Romans 15:6,11)

HYMN OF PRAISE “This is the Feast” (ELWp140)

Refrain



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

☐ *Refrain*



☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ *Refrain*



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ *Refrain*



☐ For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **C: O God our shepherd, You know Your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valley 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.**

PSALM RESPONSE *(Please sit.)*

“Shepherd Me, O God” (ELW # 463 refrain - Marty Haugen)



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life.

RESPONSIVE READINGPsalm 23 *(congregation: indented)*

The LORD is my shepherd,

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness

for His name's sake.

Psalm Response

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm Response

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST READING....Acts 2:42-47.....Pg. 1694

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING....1 Peter 2:13-3:7.....Pg. 1888

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Gentle Shepherd”

(Maj 556 - favorite - Gloria & William Gaither)

Gen tle shep herd___ come and lead us___ for we
need you to help us find our way___ Gen tle shep herd___ come and
feed us___ for we need your strength from day to day___ There's no
o ther___ we can turn to___ who can help us face an oth er day___
- Gen tle shep herd___ come and lead us___ for we need you to
help us find our way___

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. St. John, the 10th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELJohn 10:1-10.....Pg. 1666

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON *(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

“Life in The Sheepfold”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)*

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

“O Christ, Our Hope” (LBW # 300 verses 1-5)

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's might - y
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us of our
 Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 paid; you now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne in
 pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pur - i - fied, by mer - cy pur - i - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy, our future great reward;
 our only glory, may it be to glory in the Lord!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.
 Music: LOBT GOTT. IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

SMALL CATECHISM READING

L: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part I. The Conclusion to the Commandments*:

L: What does God say to us about all these commandments?

C: This is what He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

(Exodus 20:5-6)

L: What does this mean?

C: God threatens to punish everyone who breaks these commandments. We should be afraid of His anger because of this and not violate such commandments. But He promises grace and all good things to those who keep such commandments. Because of this, we, too, should love Him, trust Him, and willingly do what His commandments require.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb Who gave Himself to take away our sin, Who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: "Alleluia" *(Michael W. Smith)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Ho - ly, ho - ly
are You, Lord God Al - mighty. Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb.
You are ho - ly, ho - ly are You, Lord God Al - mighty.
Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb. A - men.

PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: We give thanks to You, Lord of heaven and earth, for the salvation we have through Jesus Christ. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup; gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death and resurrection until He comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

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. AMEN.

COMMUNION *(Please be seated)*

P: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Come to the table of the risen Christ.

All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD *(WOV p 25)*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (LBW # 456)

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear
 fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if I am
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant pas - tures
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der gent - ly
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my com - fort
 his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

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.

2. "Without Him" (Maj # 498 - Mylon R. LeFevre)

1 With - out Him I could do noth - ing, With - out Him I'd sure - ly
 2 With - out Him I would be dy - ing, With - out Him I'd be en -

1 fail; With - out Him I would be drift - ing Like a
 2 slaved; With - out Him life would be hope - less, But with

1 ship with - out a sail. Je - sus, O Je - sus! Do you
 2 Je - sus, thank God, I'm saved.

know Him to - day? Do not turn Him a - way. O Je - sus, O

Je - sus, With - out Him, how lost I would be.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please rise.)*

L: Let us pray together: C: **Loving God, by Your Spirit we are born anew, and You nourish us like newborns with this holy food, by which we grow into salvation. Give us grace to live as Your risen daughters and sons, shining in the world with Your marvelous light, until You gather all creation to the heavenly table where Christ reigns in glory forever. AMEN.**

BLESSING

P: The God of all grace, Who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit now and forever.

C: **AMEN.**

SENDING HYMN

"Surely Goodness and Mercy" (favorite) Majesty # 361

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

*Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments.
Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place.
You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross
to the glory of God*

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Irene and Gary Graham
In honour of Grandson Jacob's Birthday

APRIL 30, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETERS: 8:30-Adam Barlow / 10:45-Irene Graham

SOUND SYSTEM: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Jim Steiner

PROJECTION: Karen Brown

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

SONG LEADER: 8:30-Mike Zyskowski / 10:45-*Volunteer*

PRAISE BAND: Pastor David, Mike & Bella Zyskowski

LITURGIST: 8:30-Faith Miller / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Jim Femister / 10:45-Kathy Ballek

USHERS: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Irene Graham

COMMUNION: 8:30-Bella Zyskowski, Faith Miller, *Volunteer*
/10:45-Lyn Stryker

ALTAR GUILD: Alyce and Patty Stein

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

GRASS CUTTERS: Tom Barlow, Larry Wonderly, Missy Yalch (4/24-29)

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Jan Stryker (610) 868-9781

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*
Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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