



May 8, 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

- ♪ Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
- ♪ We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray. Blessèd Jesus...
- ♪ You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You. Blessèd Jesus...
- ♪ Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still. Blessèd Jesus....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 711-Text: Hymns for the Young, 4t ed., London 1836;
Tune: William B. Bradbury 1816-68; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

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

Psalms 23:1

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:17

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalms 23:6b

Confession and Absolution

Lord, our God,

We confess that we have strayed from hearing the voice of Your Son, our Shepherd, who went through death to eternal life for us. We have failed to trust in You fully. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us and renew in us faith and trust. Grant us to hear anew our Shepherd's voice and to follow wherever He leads, until we see Him with You in Your eternal house.

Fellow sheep within Christ's fold, our Lord Jesus was God's sacrificial Lamb and has gone through death, paying for the sins of all people, and He now reigns in eternity. Therefore, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast...

Lutheran Service Book, Page 155-Text: tr. John W. Arthur; ©1978 Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod;
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The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 20:17–35

¹⁷Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after

them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

♪ The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

♪ My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

♪ Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou are with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.

♪ My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

♪ Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 710 -Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh 1650;

Tune: William Gardiner 1770-1853; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 10:22–30

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

The Hymn

“I Am Jesus' Little Lamb”

- ♪ I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my name and still provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.
- ♪ Day by day at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay,
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.
- ♪ Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 740-Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Tune: Choral-Buch, Leipzig 1784; Setting: Ewald Weiss 1906-98; ©1984 Bavarian Lutheran Church; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“The Shepherd's Love Continues”

Revelation 7:9–17

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various conditions.

We pray for those who do not listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd, asking Your Holy Spirit to give them opportunity to come to faith and join us in saying:

The LORD is my shepherd.

We pray for all who lack the food, clothing, and shelter that they need for a fully human life, asking You, our Father in heaven, to meet their needs using Your caring people, including ourselves, for we are confident:

I shall not want.

We pray for those falsely imprisoned or denied true justice, asking You to free them and open doors of opportunity for them, as You so graciously have done for us:

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

We pray for all who are depressed in spirit or unsure of Your will for them, asking Your Holy Spirit to lift them up and guide them, that with us they may rejoice to say:

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

We pray for those who are facing sudden crises or long-term ills, and all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Special Intercessions

Lord, our Shepherd,

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.

We pray for first responders and police at home and for armed forces deployed, asking You, our Father in heaven, to guide and protect them. We pray for all who grow crops and tend herds that You would bless them with bountiful harvests so that they may thank You, praying:

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

Finally, we pray for ourselves and all who gather around Your Word, that Your Holy Spirit would keep us firm in the faith so that we may joyfully profess:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 725 - Text: Carolina Sandell Berg 1832-1903, tr. Ernst W. Olson 1870-1958; © Augsburg Publishing House; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386; Tune: Lofsanger och andeliga visor, Sweden 1873; Public Domain.

Postlude

Door Offering *You may place your offering in the plate at the door as you leave.*