



April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

♪ Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!

♪ For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

♪ Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

♪ Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 463-Text: Wipo of Burgundy d.c. 1050, tr. Jane E. Leeson 1809-81
Tune: Robert Williams 1781-1821, setting: John Roberts 1822-77; 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.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57

Confession and Absolution

Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

A Time of Silence.

Heavenly Father,

We have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins 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,
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First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response 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 Doman; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

The Prayer *Please Stand*

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 each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your risen Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 10:1–10

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Skit

“He's Calling My Name”

The Hymn

“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...

♪ 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...

♪ 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....

*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.*

Proclamation of the Word

“He’s Calling Our Name”

1 Peter 2:19–25

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Good Shepherd, may we sing Your praise,
Within Your house forever.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

♪ What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

♪ Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

♪ Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

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Postlude