



May 11, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

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...
- ♪ 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, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned every one to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

A Time of Silence

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- ♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- ♪ May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- ♪ While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
- ♪ When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702; Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87; Text: Public domain

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, ¹⁹serving 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

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

♪ Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise: Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise; He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

♪ Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat: See the ancient pow’rs of evil
In confusion and retreat; Once He died, and once was buried; Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

Please Stand

♪ Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on high: Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory; Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia! To the triune Majesty!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 477: Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group
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Holy Gospel

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 Lamb The Lamb"

The 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; Public Domain

Proclamation of the Word

"Following the Shepherd or Chased by Satan"

John 10:22–30

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Christ is risen,

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"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: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude