

The Fourth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 3, 2020

***WELCOME!** Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the ‘gate’ of the sheep in today’s Holy Gospel reading. 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. And each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world’s chaos.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

- 1 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.
- 2 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, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 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, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
- 4 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, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: **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.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE— “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” LSB 782

1 Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending, For Your love we offer praise.
Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.

2 By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small;
As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all.
Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.

3 In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends.
Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.

4 Heav'nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev'ry place!
Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

All: **O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty to the eternal joyous feast in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Acts 2:42-47, ESV

Today's First Reading is a description of life in the community of faith following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING – 1 Peter 2:19-25, ESV

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. In this reading, Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For 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. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When 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. He 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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE ALLELUIA “Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB 725

- 1 Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.
- 2 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.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 10:1-10, ESV

[Jesus said:] “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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LSB 709

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before 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!

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

LSB 465

- 3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessèd sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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