

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Saturday, April 24, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING HYMN: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious king,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath you lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!

(“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”, setting copyright 1969 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the +
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

OPENING VERSES:

L: For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

C: **As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep.**

L: I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land.

C: **I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.**

L: He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;

C: **He gently leads those that have young.**

L: Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

C: **He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.**

L: And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

C: **And He will be our peace.**

L: The LORD their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock.
C: They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. How attractive and beautiful they will be!

L: "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.
C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

L: 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst.
C: The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.

L: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
C: 'He will lead them to springs of living water.'
ALL: 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

SHEPHERD MEDLEY: "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" & "You Make Me Lie Down"

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
 For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well 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.

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CHORUS

1 Dm^7 Gm^7
 You make me lie down in green pas -

2 Bb/C $Fmaj^7$ F/E
 - tures, You make me want - ing for noth -

4 Dm Gm^7
 - ing. You fill my hun - ger with

6 Dm/A $A7$ Dm/A $A7$ Dm C/D Dm Dm^7
 hon - ey from Your sweet, sweet, Word; You let me wor -

9 Gm^7 Bb/C $Fmaj^7$ F/E
 - ship be - fore You so I will love and a - dore -

12 Dm TAG Dm/C Gm7
 You, You are my Shep - herd, You are my Je -

14 Dm/A A7 Dm
 - sus, You are my Lord.

("You Make Me Lie Down" by Kathy Zuziak, copyright 1985 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License #921494.)

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS AND PSALM 23:

- L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
- C: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**
- L: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- C: Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**
- L: 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.
- C: We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**
- L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
- C: As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "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 art 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

("The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Good Shepherd Jesus, you laid down your life for us. You died so that we could be raised to life. Let our lives be productive responses to your life, death and resurrection. Make us attentive to your voice, obedient to your leading and responsive to your love. In your name, Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:1-12

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

L: The Word of the risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

EPISTLE LESSON: I John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

L: The Word of the risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter ten.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

L: This is the Gospel of our risen Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SONG OF THE DAY: "Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us"
Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are,
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, oh, hear us, when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, oh, hear us, when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful tho' we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee,
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still,
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

MESSAGE: "Wool or Mutton?" – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.**

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE:

L: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, for you sent your only-begotten Son to be our Good Shepherd. We know His love as he laid down His life for us and set us free from sin and death. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

**Praise we him, whose love divine Gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: “Now May He Who From the Dead”

**Now may He who from the dead Bro’t the Shepherd of the sheep,
Jesus Christ, our King and Head, All our souls in safety keep!**

**May He teach us to fulfill What is pleasing in His sight,
Perfect us in all His will, And preserve us day and night!**

**To that dear Redeemer’s praise, Who the cov’nant sealed with blood.
Let our hearts and voices raise Loud thanksgivings to our God.**

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Lay Minister: Jim Geslin