

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Good Shepherd Sunday



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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

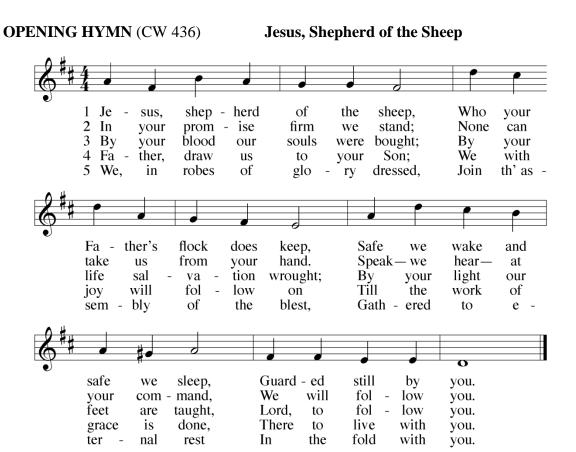
"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122:1



Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Sunday - April 25, 2021

DIVINE SERVICE II



Text: Henry Cook, 1788-1868, alt.

Tune: CAPETOWN (777 5) Friedrich Filitz, 1804-76, alt.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Mark 10:47

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

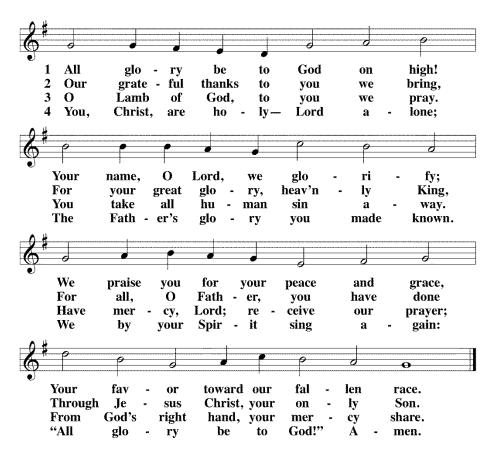
M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.



Gloria in Excelsis¹

Tune: Old Hundredth (CW#334)



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¹ Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" was the song of the heavenly host on the night of the Savior's birth. It has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.



THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED



FIRST LESSON Acts 4:23-33

²³ After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who ^[a] made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

- ²⁹ "Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰ as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
- ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
- ³² The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³ The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ^[d] with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.

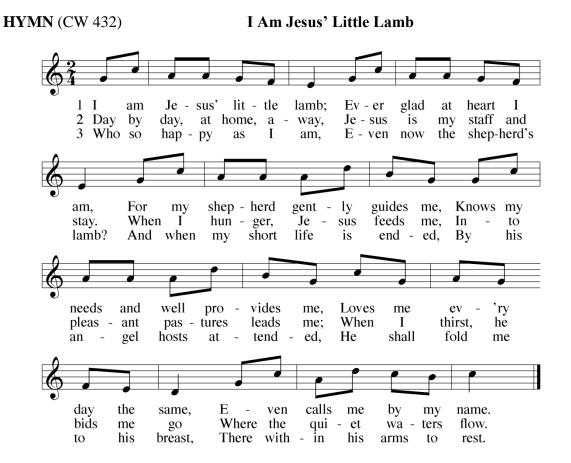
SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:1-2

3 See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ² Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.

²⁷ "For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)



Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. composite.

Tune: WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN (77 88 77) Choralbuch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784.

SERMON John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵ (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father."

The Good Shepherd...and Good Shepherding

STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the gospel and have feasted in the green pastures of your Holy Word. Bless your Word in our lives. Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next. What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for the sheep – even sheep like us.

C: Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we wander from you and stray from the call of your voice. Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one. When Satan comes in the sheep's clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us in your truth. When temporary pleasures beckon us to follow the wide road to hell, use your rod and staff to curb our sinful nature and lead us in paths of righteousness.

M: Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful undershepherds – pastors who proclaim your death and resurrection as they minister to the souls in their care. Give all ministers of the gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.

C: Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident, or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms, embrace them with the warmth of your love. Carry them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy in their lives.

M: Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your "other sheep." Let your voice be heard in all the world. Prosper the work of our missionaries at home and abroad. Give us all the zeal and courage to share with our friends and neighbors the good news of sins forgiven. Use our witness to gather the elect into one fold under your care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Eternal Shepherd, when our days on earth come to an end and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home. There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever.

C: Amen.

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THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

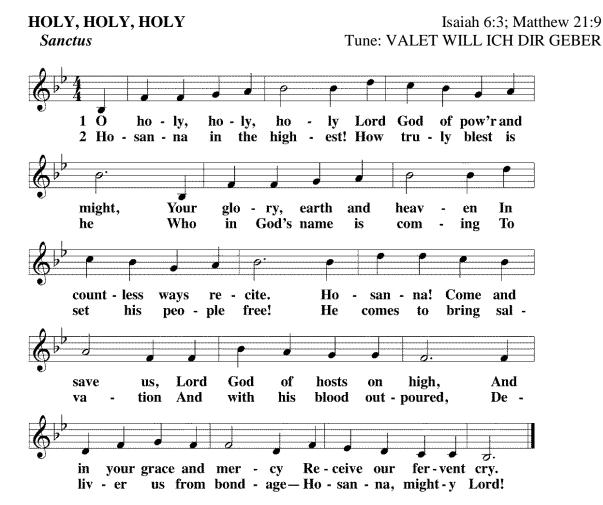
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD John 1:29



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with the Scriptural practice of closed Communion, we invite to the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood the communicant members of this congregation. We invite also the communicant members of our sister congregations in our fellowship (the WELS and the ELS) who have made their intention known to one of our pastors. We ask other guests in attendance to refrain from taking the Sacrament with us today, and we invite you to speak with a pastor about how you may join our fellowship and commune with us in the future.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CWS 766) The Lord's My Shepherd 1 The Lord's my Shep - herd; Γ' not want. 2 My soul he doth re store a gain 3 Yea, though walk in death's dark vale, I 4 My thou fur - nish - ed ta ble hast 5 Good ness and mer cy, all my life. O He lie down to makes me And doth me to walk make Yet will I fear no ill; of foes; In pre sence my Shall fol low sure ly me, In lead eth pas - tures green; he me With in the paths of right - eous - ness, For with thou art me, and thy rod My thou dost a - noint, head with oil And in God's house for er more ev 0 0 The qui eŧ wa ters by. E'en for his name's sake. own And staff me com fort still. And my cup ver flows. 0 dwell My ing place shall be. He lead - eth me, he lead eth me With in the paths of right eous ness, For thou art with me, and thy rod dost with My head thou oil noint, a And God's house for in more ev er The qui - et ters by. wa E'en for his sake. own name's And staff fort still. me com And my flows. cup 0 ver My dwell - ing place shall be.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32 Tune: ANGEL'S STORY



M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING Numbers 6:24-26

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN (CW 426)

Yours Forever, God of Love (v. 4-5)

Yours forever! Shepherd, keep All your weak and trembling sheep Safely in your tender care; Let us all your goodness share.

Yours forever! You our guide, All our needs by you supplied, All our sins by you forgiv'n, Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting *Today* at 11:45 am in sanctuary

All members invited.



Or join us online:

Quarterly Open Forum and Voters Meeting Sun, Apr 25, 2021 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Sunday April 25: 4th Sunday of Easter

The Family Altar Devotion, 8:00 am

Private Communion 8:00 – 8:30 am (*Please sign up prior.*)

Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

At-Home Sunday School #2: The Parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus

- Preach Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- Presiding Pastor: Michael Willitz

- Organist: Jennifer Boll
- Councilmen/Elder: Dave Olson (9:00) and Mitch Myhre (10:30)
- Ushers: Aaron Oughton (9:00 am) & TBA (10:30 am)
- Altar Guild: Sue Jenswold
- A/V & Recording: RaeLyn Parker
- 11:45 am: Congregational Open Forum and Voter's Meeting, sanctuary and virtual

Sunday May 2: 5th Sunday of Easter

The Family Altar Devotion, 8:00 am

Private Communion 8:00 – 8:30 am (Please sign up prior.)

Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

At-Home Sunday School #3: Jesus Raises Lazarus

- Preaching Pastor: Michael Willitz
 Presiding Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Anita Hahm
- Councilman: Mike Wilson (9:00) and Steve Kalscheuer (10:30)
- Ushers 9:00 am: Dave Olson and Ben Olson
- Ushers 10:30 am: Mark Heath and Joshua Hodkiewicz
- Altar Guild: Candace Saidler/Erica Willitz A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson

Happy Birthday: We wish God's blessings to Lori Kalscheuer (4/25), Benjamin Kerl (4/25), Tyler Pond (4/25), Alton Uebersetzig (4/26), Samy Nelson (4/27), Pam Timm (4/27), Steve Tobison (4/27), Kim Bauer (4/29), Gregg Andler (4/30), Gavin Bauer (4/30) and Terri Nale (5/1) who celebrate their birthdays this week.

Anniversary: We wish God's blessings to John & Sherry Hill (4/30) and Gene & Sharon Freund (5/1) as the celebrate their anniversaries this week.

In Our Prayers: Fred Bakken, Joyce Hamburg (sister-in-law of Karen Tobison), Wyatt Kingsland, Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Marilyn Lund, Rose Lund, Jack Richardson, Marge Ripp and Peg Schroeder who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all of our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Shannon & Matthew Garrett, Sara Goss and John J. Schueman (son of Bonnie & John Schueman).

Sunday Devotion at 8:00 am - The Family Altar

Families of all ages are invited to this morning devotion. The group follows the format of *The Family Altar* which is available each week at the back of church, or on our website under **Devotions**. Social distancing guidelines are followed and we meet in the sanctuary. The location of this devotion may need to adjust depending on those attending private communion.

At-Home Sunday School – April 25 Lesson: The Parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus Luke 16:19-31

Student lessons and instructional videos are available for all children 4 years through 6th grade. Lesson materials are located at the back of church and can be picked up today. Each Friday, video lessons become available for the following week at https://online.nph.net/ss-at-home. There is a different video for each age group.

Tuesday Bible Study at 9:00 am

Topic: Elephants in the Room: Evolution vs. The Message of Scripture
The group meets downstairs and social distancing guidelines are followed. The group is
casual and discussion is encouraged. Coffee is served. Please enter and exit through the

lower doors of church.

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm Topic: Man: From Glory to Ashes and Back

This study meets in the sanctuary. Social distancing guidelines are followed. We will be studying a new topic starting this Wednesday.

Friday Breakfast/Bible Study at 6:00 am Topic: Acts

The group meets each Friday morning at the DeForest Family Restaurant. (505 W. North Street, DeForest) Breakfast is at 6:00 am with the study starting at approx. 6:50 am.