

EASTER 4

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 25, 2021



Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
66325 M 152, Dowagiac (Sister Lakes), MI 49047

David Schaller, pastor 269-424-3035

Sunday Worship, 9:00 am - Bible Class and Sunday School, 10:15 am

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A Member Congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR EASTER 4

Good Shepherd Sunday

Adapted from *The Lutheran Hymnal*

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 207:1-4 (TLH)

Like the Golden Sun Ascending

THE INVOCATION

(We declare that the triune God is the God we worship.)

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

 C Amen.


CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

(We confess our sins and hear God's announcement of forgiveness.)

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us come near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

 C **Who made heaven and earth.**


P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

 C **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PC O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.


P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.

 C Amen.

INTROIT † GLORIA PATRI † KYRIE

(We enter the next part of the service with a Bible verse, we glorify the Father, and pray for earthly needs.)

P (Ps 66) Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!"


 C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

 C **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(We sing a hymn of glory to God.)

Melody: TLH 191 Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!

 C **Glory be to God on high; Alleluia!
Christ is ris'n, He meets our eyes! Alleluia!
God shows His goodwill toward men; Alleluia!
Peace now reigns on earth again; Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(A prayer that collects and reflects the themes of the day.)

THE LESSONS

(We hear Bible readings that support the thoughts of the season.)

1 John 3:1-2^{NIV84} *If the world doesn't accept what you believe it is because it does not know God. Now we look forward to the Day we will know Him even better!* | How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

John 10:11-18^{NIV84} *The risen Jesus is our good shepherd.* | "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns 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. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for 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 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. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-- only to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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."

PSALM FOR THE SEASON

(see back cover)

Psalm 118

I Will Praise You

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(We respond to the lessons by reciting what we believe.)

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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN 436 (TLH)

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

THE SERMON

(We learn from God's word.)

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES
"He Lives My Hungry Soul to Feed"


Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

(In the last portion of the service we pray and give thanks to God.)

P And the peace of God which is a greater peace than any our own minds can give to us shall guard your hearts in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

 **C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

OFFERING

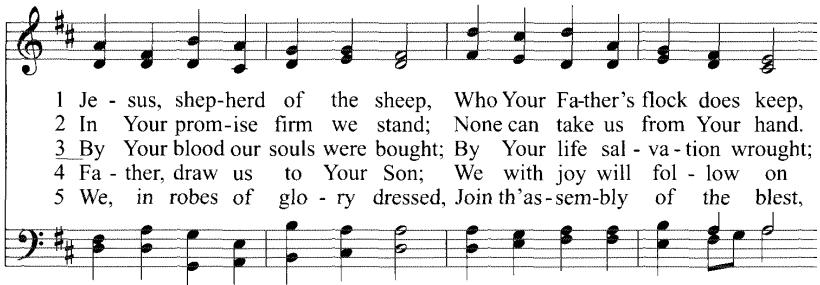
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 783 (WS)

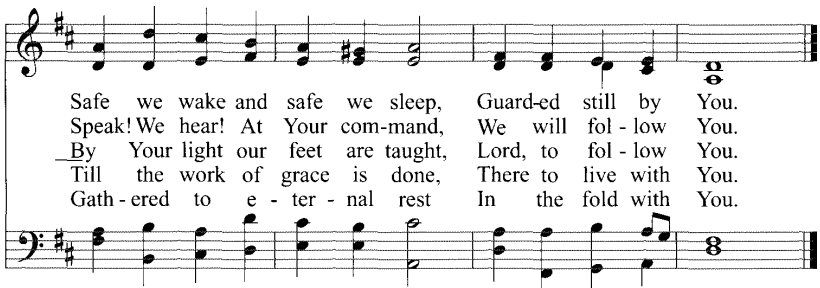
Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

TRUST **783**

JESUS, SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP



1 Je - sus, shep-herd of the sheep, Who Your Fa-ther's flock does keep,
2 In Your prom-ise firm we stand; None can take us from Your hand.
3 By Your blood our souls were bought; By Your life sal - va - tion wrought;
4 Fa - ther, draw us to Your Son; We with joy will fol - low on
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, Join th'as-sembly of the blest,



Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guard-ed still by You.
Speak! We hear! At Your com-mand, We will fol - low You.
By Your light our feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low You.
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with You.
Gath - ered to e - ter - nal rest In the fold with You.


Text: Henry Cook, 1788-1868, alt.
Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804-76, alt.

CAPETOWN
775

CLOSING PRAYER

The Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

(The Lord sends us home with His blessing.)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

♪ C **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

HYMN 189 (TLH)

He is Arisen! Glorious Word!



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions, April 26-May 1, 2021
by Prof. Paul Koch (retired)

Mon Acts 4:23-33 These Christians were troubled on every side, **yet not crushed**; perplexed, **but not in despair**, persecuted, **but not forsaken**; struck down, **but not destroyed** (2Cor. 4:8-9), for trials constituted proof they were on God's side, and they trusted God's good judgment about such things (24-28). They prayed not for a way of escape, but for the courage to use their voices and hands in God's service; everybody was on board (29-33).

Tues John 10:11-18 Good Shepherd Sunday comes around like clockwork, and Jesus still thrills us with this picture language about Himself and us. We also shiver at His warning about the fellow whose fears outweigh the needs of the sheep (11-13). We thank You, Jesus, for knowing and loving each of us, no matter what our background (16), and for serving us all the way to Your cross, into Your grave, and out the other side of the cemetery (17-18).

Wed 1 John 3:1-2 God showered His love on lost sinners, was moved to have compassion on us, adopted us as His children, and at some future moment will allow us to see Him face-to-face – all in contrast to the *world* (everything anti-God and Satan-serving). What's our reaction? We want to live as His dear children—devoted, developing, and maturing (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Thurs Psalm 23 This psalm has been typecast as the last words ever heard by a convict—which is too bad, for it is a vibrant confession of faith sung by a child of God who lives every day in the sunshine of His love and anticipates more life (6) to enjoy God's beneficence. It suits **us** because we have been pardoned of our offenses by the head Justice of the Supreme Court.

Fri Matthew 18:10-14 Jesus was generous with His time and energy, for He wants to save every wandering sheep, and because lambs are inexperienced, they need attention every minute (10,14). He's just as intent to rescue an adolescent or mature member of His flock; *if one of them goes astray, does the shepherd not seek the one that is straying? And if He should find it, does He not rejoice? What do you think?*

Sat Acts 24:1-13 An *accusation* is not the same as evidence, and sensible folks know the difference. After the prosecuting attorney buttered up the judge (1-4), he laid his cards on the table—alleging that Paul was guilty of instigating civil unrest and was an anarchist (5). Besides, since Paul had insulted the Jewish religion, his case should have been left in the hands of Jews in their own church court. “However, you be the judge” (7-9). In pleading his own case, Paul clarified the time-line and his reason for being in the Temple—which was NOT to irritate anyone in any way whatsoever. Stay tuned.

I WILL PRAISE YOU

Antiphon

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re-
joice and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re - joyce and be glad!

Psalm Tone

I will praise You, for You have answered me,*
And have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.*
This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Antiphon

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!*
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

God is the LORD, and He has given us light;*
Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise You;*
You are my God, I will exalt You.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Antiphon