

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Saturday, April 29, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
 To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
 Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
 Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
 And make us clean today.

- 2 Today Your gate is open,
 And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
 And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
 A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
 A glorious crown in heav'n.

- 3 Today our Father calls us;
 His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessèd angels gather
 Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
 How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
 It is our Father's home.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
 O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
 When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
 To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
 One ear will hear our prayer.

Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

People: He leads us and restores our souls.

Pastor: He walks beside us through the darkness

People: and never abandons us, even in death.

Pastor: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

People: and we will dwell in His house forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Pastor: Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise 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.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.

- 1 Shepherd of tender youth,
Guiding in love and truth
Through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing
And here our children bring
To join Your praise.
- 2 You are our holy Lord,
The all-subduing Word,
Healer of strife.
Yourself You did abase
That from sin's deep disgrace
You so might save our race
And give us life.
- 3 You are the great High Priest;
You have prepared the feast
Of holy love;
And in our mortal pain
None calls on You in vain;
Our pleas do not disdain;
Help from above.
- 4 O ever be our guide,
Our shepherd, and our pride,
Our staff and song.
Jesus, O Christ of God,
By your enduring Word
Lead us where You have trod;
Make our faith strong.

5 So now, and till we die,
 Sound we Your praises high
 And joyful sing:
 Infants, and all the throng,
 Who to the Church belong,
 Unite to swell the song
 To Christ, our king!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

People **Thank be to God**

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is

commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thank be to God**

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive LSB 843

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
 You taught us, Lord, to pray;
 But You alone can grant us grace
 To live the words we say.
- 2 How can Your pardon reach and bless
 The unforgiving heart
 That broods on wrongs and will not let
 Old bitterness depart?

- 3 In blazing light Your cross reveals
 The truth we dimly knew:
 What trivial debts are owed to us,
 How great our debt to You!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
 And bid resentment cease;
 Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
 Our lives will spread Your peace.

Sermon Rev. John Vaughn “Living Forever” John 10:1-10

Offering

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: **within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: **within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: **within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: **within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: within Thy house forever.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: within Thy house forever.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: within Thy house forever.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend us as our Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

People: within Thy house forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

The Invitation

P: This evening/morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ☐ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ☐ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

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C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution

Distribution 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!

Nunc Dimittis

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**C O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'n-ly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part,
We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.