

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 9:00am
Our Caring Good Shepherd
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Our Caring Good Shepherd

We find peace and assurance in the knowledge that Jesus truly is our Good Shepherd who intimately knows and cares for us.

Jesus does this, not just through words, but also through the willful laying down of His life for His sheep.

Prelude

#686, Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be; Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face; Clothed then in the blood-
washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace! Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away; Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.

Text: Public domain

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say 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.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I 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 Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I am the Good Shepherd,

C: I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

P: The Lord is my shepherd,

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C: He leads me beside still waters.

P: He restores my soul.

C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me;

C: Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE LSB 152

Assistant: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: 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.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

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

Congregation: Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST LSB 155

Congregation:

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: 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. Amen.

Children's Time

Acts 4:1–12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this

man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 John 3:16–24

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. Whoever keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE LSB 156

Congregation: Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel and Sermon Text according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because

I lay down My life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.” This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#711, *Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

- 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.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon *Our Caring Good Shepherd*

P: Please rise as we profess our faith,

C: 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.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

OFFERTORY LSB 159

Congregation:

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PREFACE LSB 160

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing,

SANCTUS LSB 161

Congregation:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of our Lord

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Jesus, 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.

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB 163

Congregation

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

#632, *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee*

1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me Thy body and Thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928

Text: Public domain

#537, *Beautiful Savior*

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Text: Public domain

#809, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Text: Public domain

P: May the body and blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in body
and soul to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

THANK THE LORD LSB 164

Congregation

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: We pray,

**C: 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 in 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. Amen.**

God's Benediction

#918, Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but Thou
art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fiery, cloudy
pillar Lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death and hell's
destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

Text: Public domain

The Postlude