

**Sunday, April 21, 2024, 11:15am**  
***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.*

***Opening Praise Song      And All the People Say Amen!***

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus said, If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me, and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

**C: Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

P: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

**C: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

P: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

**C: And let all the people say, Amen! Praise the Lord!**

P: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and pray for His gracious forgiveness.

**C: O Lord God Almighty, I confess that I am sinful by nature and by deed. I have not put You first at all times. I have not followed in the ways You have set forth for me. I have not always been a thoughtful caretaker of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. I have not kept my thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. I have sinned in ways I know and in ways I don't even recognize. I have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. I have not completely put the best construction on all things and on**



**all people. Have mercy on me, O Lord. Forgive me all my sins, and finally by Your grace, bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: The Almighty and Merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of 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: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep. They are Yours. Empower Your church to reach every sheep that belongs to You and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Acts 4:1–12**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **1 John 3:16–24**

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

### **(John 10:11-18)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## *Sermon Praise Song*

### **The Sermon**

### *Our Caring Good Shepherd*

P: As our Good Shepherd leads us, even so our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His Fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

### **The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

### **The Prayers of His Children**

P: Lord, in Your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

### **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.**

### **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve You all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **God's Benediction**

### ***Sending Praise Song***