



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Sheep May Safely Graze” from Cantata 208, BWV 208

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude Hymn — no. 789

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

For in-person worshippers, you are invited to listen as the Cantor sings this hymn

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Musical notation for the fourth line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ,
that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*

“Glory to God in the Highest”

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 4:5-12

5The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, 10let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. 11This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

12There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Psalm Interpretation

“Like a Shepherd Lead Me” based on Psalm 23, *online only*

From *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*

A Reading from the Epistles — 1 John 3:16-24

16We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains six measures of music with lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia." The second staff continues the melody with six more measures and the lyrics: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia."

Gospel — John 10:11-18

The Gospel of John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Lessons from a Real and Good Shepherd”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

Hymn — no. 502**"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"***For in-person worshippers, you are invited to listen as the Cantor sings this hymn*

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore 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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.

You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Blessing

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you
to care for all that are close to us,
to protect those who are threatened,
to welcome those who are rejected,
to forgive those who are burdened by guilt,
to heal those who are broken and sick,
to share with those who have little or nothing,
to take the time to really know one another
and love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you

to spread compassion to those who are far away,
to speak for those who are voiceless,
to defend those who are oppressed and abused,
to work for justice for those who are exploited,
to make peace for those who suffer violence,
to take the time to recognise our connectedness,
and to love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you
and to be faithful to the calling you gave us
to be shepherds in your name.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Follow the Good Shepherd. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude — “Toccata in G”

Théodore Dubois

Acknowledgements

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“Blessing: Good Shepherd” by John van de Laar, and posted at <https://sacredise.com/lectionary-resources/>

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Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Cantor: Emily Bruflat

Lector/Assistant: Vera Berglund, David Marlow

Psalm reader: Ivy McHugh

Announcements

Open for Business! With the approval of the Health Advisory team and Executive committee, we will begin offering limited in-person service beginning Sunday, April 25! What you need to know:

- Physical distancing and spacing in the sanctuary only allows for app. 50 families and up to 100 people total. First come, first served – please email the office @ flcstpoffice@gmail.com or call 507 934-3060 to reserve a spot. Please let us know how many in your family will be in attendance.
- We need to protect each other - All COVID precautions will be in place: Masks, physical distancing, sanitizing stations, etc.
- Worship will be limited with no communion, singing, fellowship time, etc.
- On-line worship on Facebook and our webpage will continue as it has for the past year.
- We are sure there will be many things to work out, change, and adjust as we move towards normalcy, so please give us grace!
- Please note: NEXT Sunday's in-person attendance (May 2) will primarily go to the confirmation students and their families and mentors. Call us on Thursday or Friday to see if there is space left!

Confirmation Sunday: On Sunday, May 2nd we will be celebrating FLC's seven Confirmands. With the safety of all in mind and guidance from both our Health Advisory Team and Church Council, it has been decided that this special service will be held in-person, at First Lutheran Church, for solely our Confirmands and their families. This service will be recorded and posted at a later time on our Facebook page for the rest of our congregation and community to view and celebrate these special people.

Easter flowers: Easter flowers were delivered to our homebound members along with cards that were made by our youth group. Thanks to Cheryl Kautt, Mary Long, Carol Solberg, Shirb Sylvester, Betty Thomspson, Pr. Bill and Calleigh Carlson for delivering the beautiful spring flowers in celebration of Easter.

Call Committee Volunteers: The church Council is asking for suggestions and/or volunteers to serve on the call committee to select our next pastor. Please contact any Council member with your suggestion or if you wish to volunteer. Our constitution limits the committee to seven members selected by the Council.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Tuesday, May 4th from 11 am until 5 pm. Please call 1800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter First Lutheran to schedule an appointment.

Saint Peter Local Public Access Channel Weekly Worship Schedule: Join us weekly Sunday mornings at 11:30 am and later at 3:00 pm. Additional broadcasts happen Monday at 6:00 pm and Tuesday at 8:00 am.

Prayer Concerns: We are called to remember John Holte, Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Bob Meeks, Jan Skolsvik and one another in prayer. We lift-up prayers of healing for all others in our personal prayers this week including Amy Ronnkvist's mother, Kathy Matthews. We also pray for the family of Eunice Amos and all families who mourn the loss of loved ones.