

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 8, 2022**  
**Jesus is our Good Shepherd**

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*All who are able, stand*

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 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:** Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

**P:** Alleluia! The Lord is risen! Alleluia! **C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!", LBW 128** *(Green book)*

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!**  
**Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!**

**Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!**

**When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!**

**Christ the Lord is ris'n on high Alleluia! Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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. **C: Amen**

*All sit*

## **FIRST LESSON: Acts 20:17-35, Paul speaks to the elders in Ephesus**

Now from Miletus (Paul) sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup>servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C:** Thanks be to God!

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

*The pastor and congregation read the psalm together.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## **SECOND LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17, A multitude sings before the Lamb**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>“Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C:** Thanks be to God!

*All who are able, stand*

### ALLELUIA VERSE



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: John 10:22-30 , Jesus promises life to his sheep

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.      **C:** Glory to you, O Lord!

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.      **C:** Praise to you, O Christ!

*All sit*

*After the Children’s Message, PRAYER CARDS can be handed towards the center aisle and given to an usher.*

### SERMON

*All who are able, stand*

**HYMN: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”, LBW 456**

*(Green book)*

**The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his And he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul he leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**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.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight From thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so, through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house forever.**

**NICENE CREED**

**P:** We confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**





We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” LBW 128. Text: Public Domain.

“The King of Love, My Shepherd Is” LBW 456. Text: Public Domain.

“Have No Fear, Little flock” LBW 476. Text: Public Domain.

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## **PRAYER CARD**

If you have a Prayer Request, use the **YELLOW** card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

## **ASSISTANCE**

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper? (Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? (Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

**Gluten free rice** wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. Those who wish may use the method of intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) for receiving the sacrament. You may receive the wine from either an individual cup or the common cup. In the center of the individual cup tray will be cups holding **white grape juice** for anyone who would prefer that over wine.

Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.



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