

MAY 3, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Have No Fear, Little Flock* (ELW 764)

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!

- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!

- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.
Sing to the Lord, give God the glory. Glory.
Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts
Forevermore let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

Used by Permission. CCLI #11066173

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

A reading from Acts.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

*(Read responsively between men and **women**, beginning with the men.)*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside the still waters;
he restores my soul.**

He leads me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

**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.**

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Be not afraid, sing out for Joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

Reprinted under OneLicense #A-719004. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Bill

SOLO *My Shepherd Is the Lord* Wayne Dale

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Lord, in your mercy.... C: **hear our prayer.**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites *(local colleges and seminaries may be named)*. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Beth Floyd, Jeff Keefer, Ellen Dale, Janie Winters, Jack Davenport, Carla Wenger, Judy Monn, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Bill Sellers, Millie Kulkusky, Brian Helman, Curt Shreiner, Erin Weiss, Susie Faust, Genny Grant, John Stoner, Karen Sanders, Jackson, Bob Shreiner, Bonnie Hudson, Ferd Bikle

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations (*local ministries may be named*). May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

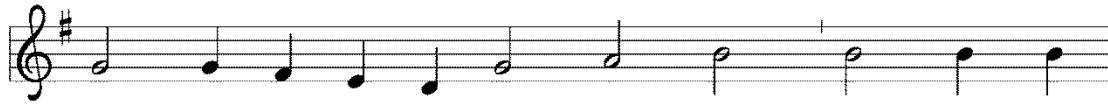
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

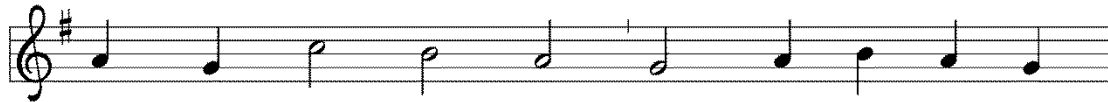
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (ELW 883)

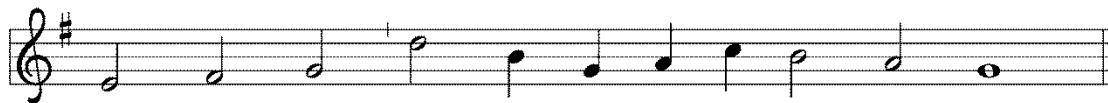
All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDRETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SILENT PRAYER

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor – Rev. Bill Nienstedt

Home Phone Number: 717-264-3757

Email Address: Pastor@solomonslutheran.org

Church Office Email Address: office@solomonslutheran.org

Organist – Doug Mummert

Acolyte – Rebekah Aldrich

Lector – Marjorie Dale

Solo – Wayne Dale

The altar flowers are placed to the glory of God in celebration of our 45th Wedding Anniversary given by Mark and Sally Gayman.

Stewardship Thought – May 3, 2020 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:46-47a - Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Now is a good time to take our cues from the early church, and choose new/ancient ways of being in community together for the sake of the world. How would you like to see this “new normal” unfold?