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**4th Sunday of Easter**

“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.” *John 10:14-15*

**AS WE GATHER**

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one’s self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”* (*LSB* 740)

I am Jesus’ little lamb, ever glad at heart I am;

for my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need and well provides me,

loves me ev’ry day the same, even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.

When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me;

when I thirst, He bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd’s lamb?

And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,

He shall fold me to His breast, there within His arms to rest.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”* (*LSB* pg. 155)

*Refrain* 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. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain

has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

**FIRST READING** Acts 4:1-12

**EPISTLE** 1 John 3:16-24

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 10:11-18

**HYMN** *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* (*LSB* 709)

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!

**SERMON *“Good Shepherd”***

**NICENE CREED**

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Be Still, My Soul”* (*LSB* 752)

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

leave to your God to order and provide;

in ev’ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend

through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake

to guide the future as He has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart

and all is darkened in this vale of tears;

then you will better know His love, His heart,

Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.

Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay

from His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on

when we shall be forever with the Lord,

when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,

sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

**HYMN** *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”* (*LSB* 711)

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.

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.

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.

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.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**