



ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD
APRIL 25, 2021 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, we celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

God's people are cared for by the Good Shepherd Himself, Who laid down His Life for the sheep. He now guides us through His Word and Sacraments. He anoints us with His Spirit so that we may pass through this trouble-filled life safely; and at last come to the house of the Lord, where we will dwell in peace forever. We listen to the Shepherd's voice; so that He might keep us on paths of righteousness for His name's sake. We have a calling to proclaim this Good Shepherd to those around us so that they may know His love, care, mercy, and peace.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze from Cantata No. 208— J. S. Bach

GREETING



INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Before God and one another, we confess our sins, seeking God's Grace and Forgiveness. Father in Heaven,

C **We have struggled with our own arrogance. We have elevated our own thoughts above Your Thoughts. We have chosen our ways over Your Ways. We have done useless things. We have offended Christ, our Shepherd and Messiah.**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of the Sheep, has died and risen again. By raising His Son from the dead, God the Father declares His Son's sacrifice sufficient atonement for our sin; and, for His Sake, declares us to be innocent and free. Therefore, as a Called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Go in the Good Shepherd's Comfort and Truth.

C **Amen.**

P May He Who began this Good Work within you bring it to completion on the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, Merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,

C **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. Amen.**

PSALM

Brother James' Air – arr. A. Bullard

Psalm 23

Congregation and Sanctuary Choir

Women/Children *The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want:
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me The quiet waters by.*

Choir *My soul He doth restore again, And me to walk doth make
Within the Paths of Righteousness, Even for His own Name's sake.
Within the Paths of Righteousness, Even for His own Name's sake.*

Men *Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy Rod And Staff me comfort still.*
All *For Thou art with me, and Thy Rod And Staff me comfort still.*

Choir *My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.*

All **Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in my Father's heart always My dwelling place shall be.
And in my heart for evermore Thy dwelling place shall be.**

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NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 4:1-12

(Salvation is found in no other name under Heaven than Jesus Christ.)

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the Law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them:

"By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:

"Rulers and elders of the people!

If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel:

It is by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified but Whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

He is `the Stone you builders rejected, which has become the Capstone.'

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by Which we must be saved."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

LSB 710

**1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.**

**2. My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.**

**3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.**

**4. My table Thou hast furnishèd In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

**5. Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.**

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EPISTLE

I John 3:16-24

(By this we know the Good Shepherd's loves for us: He lays down His Life for us.)

This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down His Life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for
our brothers.

If anyone has material possessions and
sees his brother in need but has no pity on
him, how can the Love of God be in him?
Dear children, let us not love with words
or tongue but with actions and in truth.
This then is how we know that we belong
to the Truth, and how we set our hearts at
rest in His Presence whenever our hearts
condemn us.

For God is greater than our hearts, and
He knows everything.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not
condemn us, we have confidence before
God and receive from Him anything we
ask, because we obey His Commands and
do what pleases Him.

And this is His Command:
to believe in the Name of His Son, Jesus
Christ, and to love one another as He
commanded us.

Those who obey His Commands live in
Him, and He in them.

And this is how we know that He lives in
us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ ALLELUIA VERSE

P Christ is risen from the dead.

C **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

C **He has given Him dominion over the works of His Hands; He has put all
things under His Feet.**

P We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer
has dominion over Him.

C **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

❖ HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

(Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who lays down His Life for His sheep.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

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

"I Am the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd lays down His Life
for the sheep.
The hired hand is not the shepherd who
owns the sheep.
So when he sees the wolf coming, he
abandons the sheep and runs away.
Then the wolf attacks the flock and
scatters it.
The man runs away because he is a hired
hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
"I Am the Good Shepherd; I know My
sheep and My sheep know Me--just as the
Father knows Me and I know the Father--
and I lay down My Life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that are not of this
sheep pen.
I must bring them also.
They too will listen to My Voice, and
there shall be one flock and one
Shepherd.
The reason My Father loves Me is that I
lay down My Life--only to take It up
again.
No one takes It from Me, but I lay It
down of My Own Accord.
I have authority to lay It down and
authority to take It up again.
This command I received from My
Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

LSB 709

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

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

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

**4. 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.**

**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!**

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SERMON

“My” Shepherd

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

I John 3:16-24

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 13 of this worship folder)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rachel Shaltanis

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Feed My Lambs – N. Sleeth, arr. T. Fettke

*Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;
In My Name lead them forth gently as a shepherd.
When they wander, when they stray, their protector be.
As ye do unto my flock, thus ye do to Me.*

*Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;
In My Name lead them forth gently as a shepherd.
Unto all who lose the way, hope and comfort be.
As ye do unto my flock, thus ye do to Me.*

*Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;
In My Name lead them forth gently,
Gently as a loving shepherd of the Lord,
As a loving shepherd of the Lord.*

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us bring before our Heavenly Father our praise and our petitions.
- P Almighty God, You sent Your Son as our Good Shepherd.
C **Send us His Spirit that we might know Him, love Him, and follow Him.**
- P We pray for those who are physically ill; especially...
Good Shepherd,
C **Grant them healing.**
- P We pray for those who are emotionally distressed...
Good Shepherd,
C **Lead them to still waters.**
- P We pray for those who live in destructive ways...
Good Shepherd,
C **Lead them down paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake.**
- P We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones and friends...
Good Shepherd,
C **Comfort them with Your Presence as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death.**
- P We pray for those who are besieged by attacks from Satan...
Good Shepherd,
C **Prepare a table for them in the presence of the enemy.**
- P We thank You for the faith of those who have gone before us...
Good Shepherd,
C **They dwell in Your House forever.**

P We pray for those without faith...
Good Shepherd,
C **Send us forth into Your harvest, that they might know You as their Good Shepherd.**

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do His Will, working in you that which is
well pleasing in His Sight.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
Organist/Pianist/Vocalist.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
VocalistsSanctuary Choir Ensemble
Usher.....Michael Haertling
Greeters.....Brenda Peterson, Trudy Haertling
Reader.....Bill Xenakis



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God's Love Letter, 3: "My" Shepherd (1 John 3:16-24; Ps. 23:1)
Easter 4

What does it mean to confess "The Lord is *my* Shepherd?"

1. **Today is the third week of a 5-week series on 1 John**, a letter all about God's love for us—and because of God's love for us, our love for one another.
2. **The Lord is MY Shepherd: Jesus _____ for me (3:16)**
 - a. Jesus' death was not inevitable; it was a conscious act of obedience undertaken by the perfect Son of God, for sinners like you and me.
 - b. Jesus' death for me establishes the "vertical" relationship of a perfect, loving God with each of us.
3. **The Lord is MY Shepherd: The call to believe in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ (3:23) is the call to _____ my _____ in Christ's _____, not mine.**
 - a. Recognizing that my life has been gifted to me through the sacrifice of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ, I am enabled to call Jesus "my shepherd."
 - b. God's strength reveals pride in myself and despair in future accomplishment as misguided and not God-pleasing.
4. **The Lord is MY Shepherd: The call to love one another (3:23) is the call to a "_____ - _____" where I live for others and not for myself.**
 - a. We share in Christ's humility and the form of Christ's servanthood (3:16)
 - b. Therefore, our focus is not on personal holiness but on serving one another—and our neighbor—by our actions (3:18).
 - c. The gift of the Holy Spirit (3:24) makes it all possible.
5. **The Lord is MY Shepherd: Should my heart condemn me (3:20), God is _____ than _____ and knows all things**
 - a. My Shepherd grants me peace (Ps 23:1-2), is present with me in the valley of death (23:4); and gives me an everlasting future (23:6).
 - b. *He* leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake (23:3).