

Where the Light
Shines Brightest

Revelation 7:9-17



SINGING A NEW SONG OF
PRAISE
TO OUR RISEN KING!

THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
GOOD SHEPHERD FESTIVAL
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today! We celebrate together God's work in our lives as we receive His Word and Sacraments to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. By the blood of Christ, we are made the household of God. Here, God builds us up by grace, through faith, and for service!

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

SINGING A NEW SONG

No, this is not a recruitment for more musicians at RLC (though if you are musical, contact Bob Unger or Chris Reed). This is our new sermon series for the season of Easter. Christ is risen! And that is reason to "sing praises" to God in all that we do! The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of the heavenly Kingdom where all believers will sing a new song of praise to the risen Lamb, Jesus. As people of the heavenly Kingdom dwelling here below, we have the new song now. So we sing! But it's not just the vocal singing in worship, it is the way we live our lives for our risen King as we live out our worship of Him every day.

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!**

❖ 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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❖ CONFESSION OF SINS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is Faithful and Just, will forgive our
sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**

C 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.
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 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 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20:17-35 [ESV]

(The leaders of the church are to follow Christ's example to feed and shepherd God's flock.)

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

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, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

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.

And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the Kingdom will see my face again.

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole Counsel of God.

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.

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

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.

I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

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.’”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN

Brother James' Air – arr. E. T. Davies

Psalm 23

Sanctuary Choir Male Chorus

*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

Revelation 7:9-17 [ESV]

(The Good Shepherd guides us to springs of living water.)

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, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God Who sits on the Throne, and to the Lamb!” 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, saying,

“Amen!

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,

“Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”

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. 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.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 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.”

ALLELUIA VERSE

Christ the Lord Hath Risen – arr. A. Parker and R. Shaw

Male Chorus

*Christ the Lord hath risen From His three-day prison,
Meet it is to make merrie, Jesus will our Solace be.
Alleluia.*

*Christ our victor Giant Quells the foe defiant:
Let the ransomed people sing, Glory to the Easter King,
Alleluia.*



HOLY GOSPEL WITH ACCLAMATIONS

John 10:22-30 [ESV]

(The Good Shepherd's flock hears and listens to Him.)

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 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.” 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, but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep. My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them Eternal Life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My Hand. 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.

I and the Father are One.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

SERMON HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

LSB 848

1. Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose Ev'ry gift that You impart.

2. Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

3. As we worship, grant us vision, Till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.

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SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Where the Light Shines Brightest
Revelation 7:9-17

(Sermon Notes on Page 15)



CREED

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven
and sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the Life ☩ Everlasting. Amen.



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*)

OFFERING

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

OFFERING HYMN

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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PRAYER FOR MOTHERS' DAY

- P Most Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of human life from its very beginning in the womb. You have given to women the capacity and privilege of bringing new life into this world. In Your Will, grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her the opportunity to reflect Your Selfless Love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children everywhere.
- C Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your Care and Love for her and for her unborn child.
Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble.
Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

- P To mothers You have given the great responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.
- P We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children who have died; who are ill; who are estranged from their families; or who are in trouble of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your Tender Mercy, granting them hope in the midst of their grief.
- C **We ask Your Blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted the responsibility of motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them to faithful service through self-giving love. We pray all this in the Loving Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us bring before our Heavenly Father our praise and our petitions.
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...

P 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.

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

❖ **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**

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

Have No Fear, Little Flock

LSB 735

- 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!**

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

POSTLUDE

Brother James' Air - arr. S. Wright

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Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

- PreacherRev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
- Presiding Minister.....Rev. Zach Sarrault
- Organist/Director.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
- Sanctuary Choir Male Chorus
- Lector.....Brenda Peterson
- Greeters.....Mark & Sheri Bishop
- Ushers.....Brenda Peterson



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Where the Light Shines Brightest (Revelation 7:9-17)

Easter 4, Series C

Do you feel you have experienced a more than average share of hardship in life? The sheltering work of our Good Shepherd doesn't mean we no longer face hardship. It means that the God who saves gives us the courage and hope we need for today...until we enter fully into the triumph of God. Our service to others begins with the Good Shepherd's service to us today.

1. Today is the third week of our sermon series on singing a new song of praise to our risen King. **Ours is a song sung despite the overwhelming _____ and _____ (6:12, 7:14) we suffer in these _____.** According to John 1:4-5 and the Book of Revelation there is darkness in the world, *but it cannot overcome the light of Christ* ("The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.") The light of Christ shines brightest in the dark.

2. What exactly is the "great tribulation"? Revelation has just depicted the conquering work of unjust rulers (6:2), bloodshed wherever peace is taken away (6:3), scarcity of the necessities of life (6:6), and deadly disease (6:8). Add to this the persecution of the saints and resulting terrors as the End approaches (6:9-17) and we have a picture of what our present darkness looks and *feels* like. **Yet the vision of heaven that John describes means that we are not ultimately defined by our present _____...we sing a new song today as *those "who _____"* (7:14)!** The light of Christ shines brightest in the dark.

3. **The saints in heaven stand before God _____ and _____, because of Christ, the Lamb of God, who as their Shepherd _____ and _____ for them. As we sing a new song to our risen King today, that picture of the saints is a picture of you and me, too!** As St. Paul writes, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom 5:3-5). The light of Christ shines brightest in the dark.