

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN

April 12, 2020

## 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 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.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 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.

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## Confession and Absolution

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

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

*LSB 151*

- 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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### Confession of Sins

*LSB 151*

- 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. 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.**

### Absolution

*LSB 151*

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

# Service of the Word

## Psalm of the Day

*Psalm 23*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my | shepherd;\*  
I | shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green | pastures.\*  
He leads me beside still | waters.  
<sup>3</sup>He re- | stores my soul.\*  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;\*  
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my | enemies;\*  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup | overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days | of my life,\*  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the ✠ Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit.  
As it was in the be- | ginning \*  
is now and will be forever. | Amen.

## Salutation and Collect 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, 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.

## First Reading

*Acts 2:42–47*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

## Epistle

*1 Peter 2:19–25*

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting

himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*John 10:1–10*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 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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## 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.**

## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Bidden by our Shepherd, let us come before His throne of grace in prayer on behalf of all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

Blessed Shepherd, You established Your Church with Your sacrificial death and mighty resurrection. Grant us devotion, that we may abide in the teaching of the apostles and honor the fellowship of the Church. Guard us against all enemies of Your Word, and keep us within the care of Your flock and staff forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Mighty Shepherd, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your people. Grant to us good government and good leaders who will honor Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty against all threats. Give them wisdom and moderation in their pandemic response. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Loving Shepherd, You loved the world enough to shed Your blood, and You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Inspire and equip Your Church and her ministers to speak faithfully and boldly Your Word, and bless all those who serve us on Your behalf. Bless us especially when we are persecuted for the faith or suffer for the sake of the good that honors You and is obedient to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Holy Shepherd, You have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, right and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and in service to the Gospel and that the arts may testify to Your saving death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice calls us to You in time of need. Hear us on behalf of all those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve those whom they love, and to whom death draws near. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_ and those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in the day of trouble, and hope of the new and everlasting life to come. Be with the unemployed and the distraught, and return them to health and livelihood. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious Shepherd, You seek out those who have fallen and restore the sinner to repentance. Send forth Your Spirit to rekindle faith in the hearts of those who have fallen away from the truth or who have been overcome by temptation and sin. Bring good from ill and increase in all the hunger for Your Word and a recognition of our need, that many may be gathered into Your flock when church doors are opened wide again. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Giving Shepherd, You have not withheld anything from us but emptied Yourself fully upon the cross that we might be saved. Move our hearts to such devotion and teach us such generosity, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and serve our neighbor in need with the resources You have supplied to us so abundantly. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Good Shepherd, You set Your table among us in the presence of our enemies. Hear us because we are beset by so many false voices and tempted by so many false gospels. Help us to hear Your voice and to abide safely in Your Word that remains forever. Equip us with Your Spirit so that we may receive Your body and blood with faith and a repentant heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O great Good Shepherd, we pray You to hear Your sheep and answer our prayers with mercy, granting us those things profitable for us and our salvation and keeping from us all things harmful; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

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

**C** **Amen.**

## 696 O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faithful God,  
True fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is,  
All perfect gifts bestowing:  
Give me a healthy frame,  
And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame,  
A soul unstained by sin.

2 Grant me the strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whatever You command,  
My calling here fulfilling;  
That I do what I should  
While trusting You to bless  
The outcome for my good,  
For You must give success.

3 Keep me from saying words  
That later need recalling;  
Guard me lest idle speech  
May from my lips be falling;  
But when within my place  
I must and ought to speak,  
Then to my words give grace  
Lest I offend the weak.

- 4 Lord, let me win my foes  
With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends  
For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as You have taught,  
To love both great and small  
And by Your Spirit's might  
To live in peace with all.
- 5 Let me depart this life  
Confiding in my Savior;  
By grace receive my soul  
That it may live forever;  
And let my body have  
A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave;  
And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day  
When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand,  
My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice,  
Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice  
With those who love Your name.

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*Rev. Clyde McLennan*

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