

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2021

Sunday School and Bible Study - 9:00 am
+ Service of Word and Prayer - 10:30 am +

Rev. Herbert C. Dolich, Pastor

One Pastor, Many Ministers

Lenna Harris- Music Director/Organist

Tim Warren – Assisting Minister

Marissa Reed - Lector

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

*Congregation please stand as able

+ GATHERING +

Prelude – "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" by William B. Bradbury

Welcome & Announcements

*Stand as you are able

***Gathering Hymn - "The Lord's My Shepherd" ELW 778**

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, c'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

***Greeting**

P For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

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

C And also with you.

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

***Kyrie**

5203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*Gloria

5204a



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright,



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, You seek the lost and guide us into Your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with You, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

First Reading – Acts 4: 5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

L The first lesson is from the 4th chapter of Acts

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (Read responsively by full verse)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you
are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading – 1 John 3: 16 –24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

L The second lesson is from the 3rd chapter of 1 John

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

***Gospel Acclamation:**



S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Holy Gospel John 10: 11-18**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord

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

Please be seated

Meditation

Time for reflection

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD +

* Please stand as able

***Hymn of the Day** – “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Service Book 493

*Apostles Creed – Confession and Forgiveness

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

+ PRAYER +

*Prayers of Intercession

A Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A Loving Shepherd, You know Your own and Your own know You. Your voice calls us to Your loving embrace. Strengthen Your church throughout the world that we bear witness to Your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious Shepherd, You are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore Your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are Your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abiding Shepherd, Your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Saving Shepherd, You restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities (*specific concerns may be named*), fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Eternal Shepherd, You hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in You (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in Your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to You, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Peace**

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share our Lord's Peace with one another

Please be seated

Responding to God's Faithfulness with Giving – "Jesus, Guide Me" by William B. Bradbury

***Offering Prayer**

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

+ SENDING +

***Blessing**

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C Amen

*Closing Hymn - "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

ELW 789



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Extinguishing of candles

*Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude – "Postludium" by W. D. Armstrong

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24416.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.
OneLicense.net License #A-709294

Welcome to All Visitors who worship with us this morning. Jesus came to make God's love known to our world. May your worship with us make God's love known in your heart and in your life this day and always. We invite you to sign our Guest Register and introduce yourselves to the pastor after worship.

Bulletins are given to the Glory of God in memory of Sally Lorentzen by Greg and Gail Drennan

Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Jane Mengel and the 25th anniversary of her kidney transplant.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers

Jessica Drennan, Larry Gold, Lenny Nangel, Barbara Frace, Lenna Harris, and JoAnne Keifer.

Please, take a few minutes to read through the prayer list and let the pastor know if any names should be added or removed.

This Week at Hope -

Today - 04/25

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Worship of Word and Prayer- 10:30 AM

***Highway Clean-up after church**

04/26 - Monday

Al-A-Non group 11:00 AM - Social Hall

04/27 - Tuesday

AA 8:00 PM Social Hall

04/28 - Wednesday

04/29 - Thursday

AA 10:00 AM-Social Hall

AA Tatamy Women's Group 6:30 PM

04/30 - Friday

AA 7:30 PM - Social Hall, Al-A-Non 7:30 PM, Conf. room

05/01 - Saturday

05/02 - Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday School (Fellowship Hall) and Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion 10:30 AM

Birthdays this week

04/25 Kellie Woodring

04/27 Jen Woolley

Anniversaries

05/02 Dale & Gloria Kachline

Richard & Linda Spangler

"Hope -- An Anchor for the Soul"

Hebrews 6:19

Abundant Care

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us. When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care.

There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Announcements:

- Highway cleanup will be held today after church – see Tina & Eric Krug
- The WELCA Mother's Day Luncheon will be held Wednesday, May 12th at 11:30 a.m. at Sal's Pizza Restaurant
- Message from Hope Lutheran Church Congregational Council:

Dear Faithful:

Planned giving to Hope Lutheran Church over the years has been a vital source of regular income to enable the church to meet ongoing costs, providing a place for prayer and worship and a base for sharing of life together at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Of equal importance, the church is a home from which the Gospel is spread.

The present congregation is in the process of raising money to pay the outstanding debt for a new furnace, which was installed the summer of 2020. We have made progress in paying off the balance, however, we would like to retire this debt to be able to concentrate on ongoing ministries.

We ask you to prayerfully consider giving to this cause.

Please make any donation payable to the church with a caption reading "Furnace Fund". Donations may be mailed to the church (240 S. 8th St., Easton, PA 18045-7879). Also, there is a secured outdoor mailbox at the main church entrance where any offerings can be placed.

Thank you for your support.