

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
APRIL 25, 2021**

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55407

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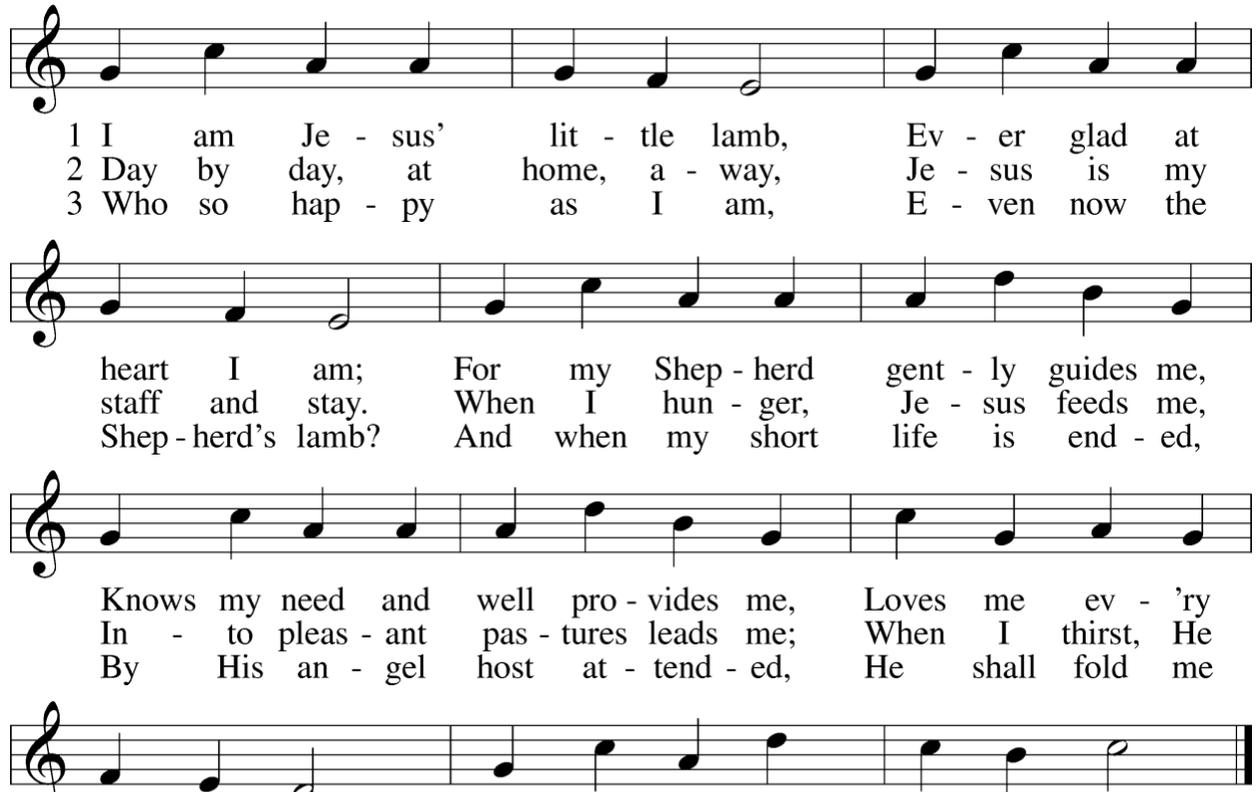
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Theme of Today's Readings: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down His Life for the Sheep

Silent Prayer Before Worship: 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. Amen.

Opening Hymn, LSB 483, TLH 648 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- C O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Oh LORD, our LORD, we praise You for being our Shepherd...and that You have called us to be Your sheep. Help us, we pray to reach out to others whom You desire as Your sheep and guide us to love them the same way You have always loved us. We pray, O Jesus our Good Shepherd, in Your holy name.
- C Amen.**

The First Reading, Acts 4:1-12 (NIV)

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, 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; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others 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 man who was lame and are being 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. Jesus is

*"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone."*

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Epistle Reading, 1st John 3:16-24 (NIV)

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 and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that 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 keep 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. The one who keeps God's commands lives 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.

Choir Anthem, "Shepherd, Lead Us" (Robert Wetzler)

Gospel Reading, John 10:11-18 (NIV)

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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.

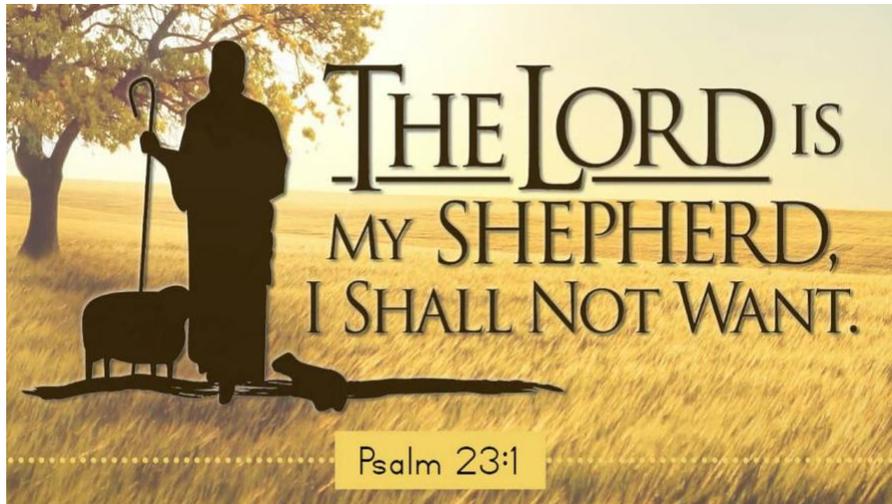
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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.



Sermon Hymn, LSB 749
 “There Is a Balm in Gilead” (No TLH)

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis-cour-aged And think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, If you can-not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, For Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
 You can tell the love of Je - sus And say He died for all.
 And if you lack for knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon, “Who Are the Sheep?”

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion

Choir Anthem, "As the Deer" (Greg Scheer)

Benediction (NIV)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn, LSB 710, TLH 436

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



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -

lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
 and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
 ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

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Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to Those Serving Today:

April Altar Guild: Jean Anderson and Darcy Tatham

Choir Director: David Hinrichs

Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot

April Communion Assistant: Steve McConley

Counters for today: Keith and Mary Lange

Lector: Jim Hoeft

Guest Organist: Karen Bartz

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger

Recorder: James Blomberg

Ushers: Lynn Oolman & Andy Tatham

Bulletin Notes

- The Deacons decided to continue printing out the hymns in the bulletin. We can make them larger and easier to read than in the hymnal. When the two hymnals [Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)] match we will include both numbers for those who prefer to use the hymnal – especially for those who like to sing parts.
- There are Children’s Bulletins available in the back of the church.
- There are large print editions of the bulletin available.

LWML Mites

The Mite offering was \$57.40. The next collection will be June 6.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to Kate McConley (4/26), Matt McConley (4/26), Sally Gorski (4/27), Aryanne Macht (4/28), Jesse Jenson (4/29), and Tim Phelon (5/2).

Prayer Requests

Prayers are requested for Mary Mulfinger's mother who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Prayers are requested for Sally Gorski who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

New Directory

A new membership directory has been printed and is available in the back of the sanctuary. Please report any corrections to the office.

You may remove the Price family as they have transferred out to Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield, SD.

Office Information

Pastor Don is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Kevin's Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10-3

Phone: 612-722-1083

Email: admin@holycrossmpls.org

Balm in Gilead?

Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?"

Gilead was a region in what is today the Kingdom of Jordan in the Middle East.

"There Is A Balm in Gilead" is a traditional African American spiritual. The date of composition is unclear, though the song dates at least to the 19th century. A version of the refrain can be found in Washington Glass's 1854 hymn "The Sinner's Cure". There is an allusion to the song in Edgar Allan Poe's poem The Raven (1845).

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE

- Holy Cross: Go to the church website (holycrossmpls.org) and listen to our recorded service.
- Mainstreetliving.com/twincities
- Go to "The Lutheran Hour" at any time.

RADIO

- "The Lutheran Hour" is broadcast on WCCO 830AM radio on Sunday mornings at 6:05a.m.
- "The Lutheran Hour" is broadcast on Sirius XM, Family Talk Channel 131 on Sunday Mornings at 9a.m.

CELL PHONE

- Download "The Lutheran Hour" app on your cell phone.

TELEVISION

Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week.

Main Street Living is broadcast at 9 a.m. on WFTC. WFTC can be found in the following places:

TV Channel 10 on Spectrum, Comcast, Mediacom
TV Channel 29 on UHF Digital, DirectTV, Dish
TV Channel 807 on Comcast and 803 on Mediacom
TV Channel 9.2 which is over the air.
[Online at mainstreetliving.com/twincities]