



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Where tradition and inclusivity meet.

## Divine Worship

May 3, 2020

## Easter IV



Today is sometimes called  
"Good Shepherd Sunday."

Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence, war and pandemic. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

### Welcome and Thanksgiving for Baptism

***At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.***

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

***Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.***

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Apostolic Greeting**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

## **Prayer of the Day**

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Readings and Psalm**

### **First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

42[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill

of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## **Psalm: Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

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

**2The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

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

**4Though 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. R**

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

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

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

19It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 21For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

22"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

23When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For

you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Gospel: John 10:1-10**

[Jesus said:] 1“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

## **Meditation**

## **Hymn**



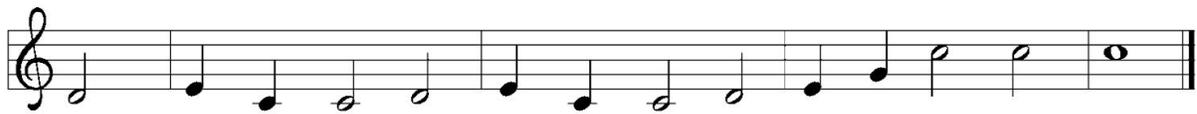
## The Lord's My Shepherd



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, 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.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

***Please help us reconstitute our prayer list. You may send a request to the church office or text Pastor Gary.***

**Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:**

John Weakland (Brian Weakland's Father)

Zoia "Charlie" Foster (Pastor's niece)

The Family of Rosa Reyes (Friend of the church who died from Covid19)

The Family of Sean Gustwiller (Friends of Courtney Kochuba)

The Family of Charles Powers (Friends of the Meusel family who died from Covid19)

The Family of Florence Dombrowsky (Funeral service provided by our congregation Covid 19)

## Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites. We pray for students who are having a difficult time with remote learning and the difficult position of missing friends and graduations. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. We ask that you pour your spirit of wisdom and counsel on our leaders, especially our president Donald and our governors Phil and Andrew. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations especially Lunch Time Ministry, The Hoboken Shelter, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social

Services. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

***Here other intercessions may be offered.***

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Our Father who art in heaven...**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Especially for Children**

Petting zoos do not give children a very clear sense of why sheep are so important in the Bible. Explain to the children that in the agricultural economy of ancient Israel, sheep were seen as a gift from God. They served as a primary source of food—milk and meat—and of wool for clothing. Herded in large flocks, sheep needed the protection of a good shepherd, since especially wolves liked to catch and eat them. Because sheep were so prized, they served as an offering, showing gratitude to God. We too are like these sheep—gifts from God who are ready to give of ourselves to serve our communities in some way.