

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2025

"Our Shepherd and Our Future"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #709 *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore 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!**

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING RESPONSES

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: We all, like sheep, have gone astray;

C: each of us has turned to his own way.

P: But the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

C: so we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

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

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 23 (KJV)

C: The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #473 “Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”



1 Our Pas - chal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sac - ri - ficed. O keep
2 Let all our lives now cel - e - brate The feast; let mal - ice die.
3 Let all our deeds, u - nan - i - mous, Con - fess Him as our Lord



The feast of free - dom gal - lant - ly; Let al - le - lu - ias leap:
Let love grow strong a - new, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie.
Who by the Spir - it lives in us, The Fa - ther's liv - ing Word.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A -



gain Sing al - le - lu - ia, cry a - loud: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

THE FIRST READING Acts 20:17-35 (ESV)

Now from Miletus [Paul] 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 of you, 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 everyone 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.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE Revelation 7:9-17 (ESV)

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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE (Romans 6:9; John 10:27-28) (tune: *Hymn to Joy*, #477)

Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en; He will ne-ver die a-gain.

Death has no do-min-ion o'er Him; All things are un-der His reign.

My Good Shep-herd, He now leads me; In His Word I hear His voice.

Life e-ter-nal He will give me. I'm His own and I re-joice.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 10:22-30 (ESV)

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

C: Glory 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 part of My flock. 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE *The Seventh Commandment & Meaning* (Luther's Small Catechism)

C: You shall not steal. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #710 "The Lord's My Shepherd"



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.

THE SERMON *“Our Shepherd and Our Future”* Text: Revelation 7:9-17

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #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.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)

THE 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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

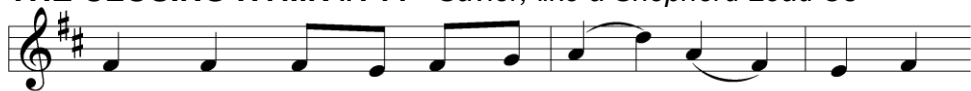
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #711 *"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"*



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS