



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

May 3, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR ONLINE IN-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

Thank you for joining us today in our online in-home worship service! This service is designed to be used with just one person or with your family and friends who have gathered to thank and praise Jesus for his continued goodness to us. Print as many copies of this bulletin as you wish or follow along looking at this file on any computer, tablet or phone.

Before watching, it may be helpful to remove distractions from the room such as pets, loud toys, etc. Parents might explain to children that we will be worshiping Jesus while the video is playing, listening and responding just like we usually do at church. It might feel a little odd at first to worship this way, but if you explain the situation beforehand, you can expect better participation in your home.

SEASON OF EASTER 2020

Our worship series during the season of Easter is called “Witness.” We will follow the appointed lectionary readings from the book of Acts and see how the disciples carried out the instructions Jesus gave them to be his witnesses, through the power of the Holy Spirit. They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Not even the threat of death could stop them from faithfully witnessing to others. Our prayer is that through this worship series, we will be encouraged and empowered to witness to the people around us, starting right here where we live, and reaching out to the ends of the earth. We’ll see where our witnessing power comes from, get practical advice on how to share Christ, and get an idea of what to expect when we proclaim the wonderful Easter message of the risen Savior. God bless you as you witness!



TODAY’S FOCUS

The portrayal of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most familiar and beloved in all of Scripture. Today’s worship will bring us the comfort and peace of this blessed truth: The Lord Is My Shepherd. The apostle Peter does something a little unusual. In a letter he wrote, he connects the Good Shepherd to the Cross. Following and witnessing our Good Shepherd at times comes at a cost. For Stephen, the first Christian martyr mentioned in the Bible, the cost was his life. No matter what trouble or hardship we face in this world, we are compelled by the Gospel to lift high the cross and proclaim the truth about Jesus.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life-saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

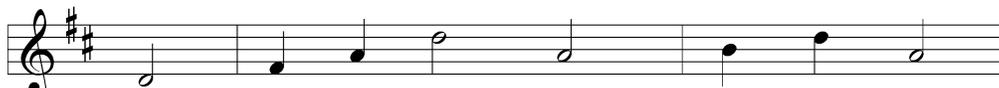
The Lord's My Shepherd *Christian Worship Supplement #766*



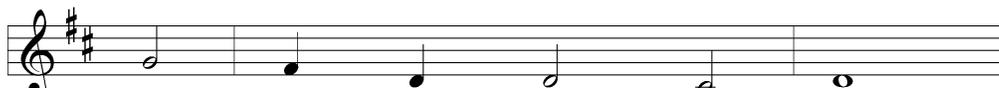
1 The Lord's my Shep - herd; I'll not want.
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed
5 Good - ness and mer - cy, all my life,



He makes me down to lie
And me to walk doth make
Yet will I fear no ill;
In pre - sence of my foes;
Shall sure - ly fol - low me,



In pas - tures green; he lead - eth me
With - in the paths of right - eous - ness,
For thou art with me, and thy rod
My head thou dost with oil a - noint,
And in God's house for - ev - er - more



The qui - et wa - ters by.
E'en for his own name's sake.
And staff me com - fort still.
And my cup o - ver - flows.
My dwell - ing place shall be.



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me
With - in the paths of right - eous - ness,
For thou art with me, and thy rod
My head thou dost with oil a - noint,
And in God's house for - ev - er - more



The qui - et wa - ters by.
E'en for his own name's sake.
And staff me com - fort still.
And my cup o - ver - flows.
My dwell - ing place shall be.

INVOCATION

Minister: Jesus is the door for the sheep. Whoever enters through him will be saved.

Congregation: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.

M: Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep.

C: I know my Shepherd, and I will listen to his voice.

M: And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

C: For this is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even unto the end.

M: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd;

C: He will lead us to springs of living water and he will refresh our souls.

M: We worship you, Lord Jesus, our good and faithful Shepherd.

C: Together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, the one true God.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Come, let us return to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, confessing our sins, and seeking his mercy.

(silence for reflection)

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd,

C: We admit that we are sheep who love to stray. We have assumed that there are greener pastures somewhere other than within the pasture of your holy will. We have wandered into sins of thoughts, words, and actions, and we have placed our eternal destiny in jeopardy. So now we seek refuge in the arms of your mercy. Shepherd us, Lord Jesus, and forgive us. Keep us within your flock of redeemed and precious lambs, and defend us against the devil, that roaring lion who seeks to devour us.

ABSOLUTION

M: The Good Shepherd has given his life for the sheep. He is not a hired hand, who runs away when the sheep are in danger. He laid down his life for us, and he has taken it up again. And through his death and resurrection, we have forgiveness and eternal life. So, listen to the voice of your Shepherd, and follow him, and you shall never perish.

C: Shepherd me, Lord Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have raised from death our Lord Jesus, the Shepherd of your sheep, give us your Holy Spirit that we may know the voice of our Shepherd, and following him, may never be in want. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORSHIP PSALM

Psalm 23 – You Are My Shepherd

Please join in as you are comfortable or simply listen to the soloist.

Verse 1: Fresh and green are the pastures where you give me repose.
Near restful waters you lead me, to revive my drooping spirit

Refrain:

If I should walk in the val - ley of
dark - ness, no e - vil would I fear.
You are my shep - herd; I shall not want.
You are my shep - herd; I shall not want.

Verse 2: You guide me along the right path; you are true to your name.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

Refrain:

Verse 3: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Refrain:

Verse 4: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.

Refrain:

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Stephen boldly told people about Jesus, who would bring him and all believers to the eternal pastures of eternal life. How fitting on this day, when we hear of the Church's first martyr, that we sing Psalm 23 and remember Stephen, a true shepherd who now dwells in the house of the Lord forever.

⁶ In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.

³ Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen.

...

² Stephen said, "Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

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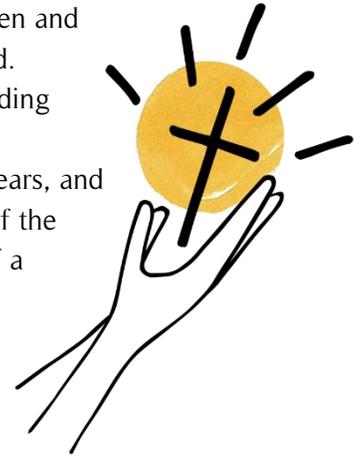
⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did.

⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— ⁵³ you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it."

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.



GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1-10

Jesus is the only door for the sheep, and there is no other! When a man approaches the sheep, one only needs to see how he enters the pen. True shepherds use the gate, preach Christ, and love the sheep. False shepherds refuse the door, reject Christ, and destroy the flock.

¹⁰“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

¹⁰“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Hands 2 Grow Puppets

SERMON SONG

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Christian Worship #432

Verse one will be sung by the soloist.



Video Solo: 1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; Ev - er glad at heart I
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my staff and
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the shep-herd's



am, For my shep - herd gent - ly guides me, Knows my
stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, In - to
lamb? And when my short life is end - ed, By his



needs and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, he
an - gel hosts 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.



¹⁹For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. ²⁰For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

²¹Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. ²²He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. ²³When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Good Shepherd Teaches Us the Reality of the Cross

- The cross he bore
- The crosses we bear

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

OFFERINGS

The members of this congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Thank you for your joyful generosity! *Please see our Love Notes for more information on ways to give your offerings.*



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa -
 peace which pass - es un - der - stand -
 ther, And the grace of Christ the ris - en
 ing, And this grace which makes us what we
 Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the
 are, And this fel - low-ship of his Com -
 Spir - it Keep our hearts and minds with - in his
 mun - ion Make us one in spir - it and in
Refrain
 love. heart. And to him be praise for his
 glo - rious reign From the depths of earth to the
 heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the
 Lamb once slain— Christ e - ter - nal, the King of
 kings.
 2 May this kings.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, Shepherd of our souls, we often wander as helpless sheep.

C: Restore our souls with the quiet waters of forgiveness and the green pastures of your word.

M: Protect us against the wolves of materialism and greed.

C: Keep us from wandering after the pleasures of sin.

M: Guide us by your words of truth.

C: Guide us through the valley of the shadow of death to our home above.

M: Dear Lord of body and soul, protect us from the Coronavirus and bring comfort and healing to those who are suffering from this terrible disease.

C: Keep doctors and nurses safe as they work tirelessly to care for others.

M: Give wisdom to our elected representatives at all levels of government.

C: Lead them to pass laws that will reflect your will and benefit all citizens.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer:

M: Gracious Father, we ask you to look with favor on Patti Janz, Jon McElroy's aunt, who is receiving treatment for cancer. Please bless the doctors with wisdom to attack this cancer. Give Patti patience as she undergoes this rigorous treatment. Most importantly, keep her close to you through your word, reminding her that you are her God and Savior.

Lord, teach us to pray, even as you taught your first disciples to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Dave Pries
Scripture Reader: Dan Wallander
Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger
Soloist: Brianna Neuberger
“I Am Jesus Little Lamb” Soloist: Brielle Clark

The Lord’s My Shepherd

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Psalm 23 – You Are My Shepherd

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I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb

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May the Peace of God

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Holy Bible

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