



The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21/22, 2024

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

CURRENT SERIES: RESURRECTION REALITY

St. Paul writes, "...in fact Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Two important words: "in fact." Paul is stressing that the resurrection really happened. Easter is history. Jesus' resurrection is the event that defines reality for us all. If Christ had remained dead, he would be a fraud and failure. But Christ has in fact been raised! So, the reality: Jesus is who he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. Also his words and promises for us are sure, anchored to the reality of his resurrection. So the reality of the resurrection changes our future and the way we look at life now.

TODAY: THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING

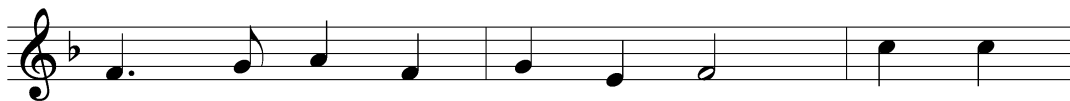
Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. For sheep to survive they need a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

Today, there are plenty of people—pastors (*pastor* means "shepherd"), religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that "many" of these are "false prophets" (1 John 4:1) who "twist the truth" (Acts 20:30). Many! But the *resurrection reality* is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true under-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Stand for stanza five.



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" saints on
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O
5 Soar we now where Christ has led, fol - l'wing



earth and an - gels say. Raise your joys and
fight, the bat - tle won. Lo, our sun's e -
burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -
death, is now your sting? Once he died our
our ex - alt - ed head. Made like him, like



tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
clipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.
bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
him we rise; ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

Lord Jesus, Gentle Shepherd, we admit that we are sheep who love to stray. We have been tempted to think that there are greener pastures other than the pasture of your holy will.

We confess that by our sinful thoughts, words, and actions, we have wandered away from you. 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. Defend us against the devil, that roaring lion who seeks to devour us.

ABSOLUTION

Jesus, your Good Shepherd has given his life for the sheep. He is not a hired hand, who runs away when the sheep are in danger. Instead, he laid down his life for us. On Easter morning, he took it up again. Through his death and resurrection, you have forgiveness of + sins and the joy of eternal life.

Shepherd us, Lord Jesus! Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 20:28–32

The Apostle Paul encourages the spiritual shepherds of the church in Ephesus in their work.

²⁸“Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. ³⁰Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

³²“And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The second reading appointed for today will be read as part of today's sermon.

A psalm by David.

The Shepherd Provides for His People

¹The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

²He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

³He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

The Shepherd Protects His People

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

The Royal Host Provides for His People

⁵You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil.

My cup is overflowing.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live 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.

STAND

GOSPEL

John 10:11–18

Jesus explains why he is the Good Shepherd.

¹¹“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵(just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children are invited to the front for a brief devotion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
 you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

5 You spread a table in my sight,
 a banquet here bestowing;
 your oil of welcome, my delight;
 my cup is overflowing!

6 And so through all the length of days
 your goodness fails me never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 within your house forever!

^{4:1}Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. ⁴You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. ⁵They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Large Catechism, Part 5, On the Lord's Supper, par. 24-27

...the Sacrament [of the Lord's Supper] is given as a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so that it will not fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger.

The new life must be guided so that it continually increases and progresses.

But it must suffer much opposition. For the devil is such a furious enemy. When he sees that we oppose him and attack the old man, and that he cannot topple us over by force, **he prowls and moves about on all sides.**

He tries every trick and does not stop until he finally wears us out, so that we either renounce our faith or throw up our hands and put up our feet, becoming indifferent or impatient.

Now to this purpose the comfort of the Sacrament is given when the heart feels that the burden is becoming too heavy, so that it may gain here new power and refreshment.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

I Will Follow

*Where you go, I'll go
Where you stay, I'll stay
When you move, I'll move
I will follow...*

*All your ways are good
All your ways are sure
I will trust in you alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in you alone*

*Where you go, I'll go
Where you stay, I'll stay
When you move, I'll move
I will follow you
Who you love, I'll love
How you serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow you,
I will follow you*

*Light unto the world
Light unto my life
I will live for you alone
You're the one I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in you alone*

*Where you go, I'll go
Where you stay, I'll stay
When you move, I'll move
I will follow you
Who you love, I'll love
How you serve, I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow you
I will follow you, yeah*

*In you there's life everlasting
In you there's freedom for my soul
In you there's joy, unending joy
And I will follow*

*Where you go, I'll go
Where you stay, I'll stay
When you move, I'll move
I will follow
Who you love, I'll love
How you serve, I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

Good Shepherd, save us.

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead: to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

Good Shepherd, lead us.

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

Good Shepherd, guide us.

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

Good Shepherd, console us.

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

Good Shepherd, inspire us.

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE SACRAMENT

For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
 2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
 3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
 4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
 5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
 take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at
 life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
 joy will fol - low on till the work of
 sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
 your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
 feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
 grace is done, there to live with you.
 ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit



1 Send, O Lord, your Ho - ly Spir - it on your ser - vants
2 You, O Lord, your - self have called them for your pre - cious
3 Help, Lord Je - sus, help them nour - ish our dear chil - dren



now, we pray; let them all be faith - ful shep - herds
lambs to care; but to pros - per in their call - ing,
with your Word, that in con - stant love they serve you



that no lamb is led a - stray. Your pure teach - ing to pro -
they the Spir - it's gifts must share. Grant them wis - dom from a -
till in heav'n their song is heard. Bound - less bless - ings, Lord, be -



claim, to a - dore your ho - ly name, and to feed your
bove, fill their hearts with ho - ly love; in their weak - ness,
stow on your ser - vants' work be - low till by grace to



lambs, dear Sav - ior, make their aim and sole en - deav - or.
Lord, be near them, in their prayers, Good Shep - herd, hear them.
them is giv - en their re - ward, the crown of heav - en.

STAND

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PRAYER

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.
Amen.

BLESSING

Hebrews 13:20–21

Now 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.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

BE SEATED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister (Sunday): Pastor Dave Backus

Minister (Monday): Pastor Tim Wagner (Riverview Lutheran)

Scripture Readers: Jason Kempfert (8:00 am); Ben Rusch (10:45 am)

Accompanist: Ben Rusch

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (CW 465)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (CW 552)

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Tune: Irish, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain.

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep (CW 551)

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876 Text and tune: Public domain.

I Will Follow

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Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit (CW 898)

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Amazing Grace (CW 576)

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Text: Public domain.

Holy Bible

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