

## AS WE GATHER

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER THE GOOD SHEPHERDING CONTINUES

May 11, 2025

### PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

#### HYMN “O Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer”

*Tune: LSB 700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

- 1 O Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer,  
We extol Your precious name;  
Yesterday, today, forever—  
Your great love remains the same!  
Long before the world’s foundation  
You as LORD, the great I AM,  
Planned to bear the cross and save us,  
As God’s sacrificial Lamb.
  
- 2 You are worthy, ever reigning  
As the risen King of kings!  
“Blessing, honor, glory, power . . .”  
All creation ever sings!  
Gladly now we join that chorus,  
Awed by what our ransom cost,  
Praising You, our great Good Shepherd,  
Who would seek and save the lost.
  
- 3 You are Alpha and Omega,  
First and last, the start and end,  
One who was, who is, and will be,  
Yet You deign to be our friend!  
Living Water, Your great mercy  
Is a boundless reservoir,  
So that all whose souls are thirsty  
Drink of You and thirst no more.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958

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Tune: Public domain

### INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Based on Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24*

P All we like sheep have gone astray;  
C **we have turned every one to his own way;**

P and the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross  
C **that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

*Silence for reflection and examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

P He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.  
C **Amen.**

## KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

## PSALM 23

**The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Even 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.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

#### **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

#### **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.**

#### **FIRST READING**

*Acts 20:17–35*

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.  
When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.  
I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.  
You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.  
I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.  
"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.  
"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.  
Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.  
For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.  
Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.  
I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.  
"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.  
I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing.  
You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

L This is the Word of the Lord. (NIV)

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Revelation 7:9–17*

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come 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 spread his tent over them.

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 10:22–30*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

I and the Father are one." (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **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.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LSB 709**

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before 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!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958

Text and music: Public domain

**SERMON** “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me*” **Text: John 10:27**

**OFFERING**

**HYMN** “**I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb**” **LSB 740**

- 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.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Choral-Buch... Bruder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784; setting: Ewald Weiss, 1906-98

Text and tune: Public domain

**CONFIRMATION of Leighton Joseph Jensen [Saturday]**

*LSB pages 272-274*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep. Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, Your Son has raised up undershepherds through whom He provides His care and protection, guarding us by His Word and nurturing our faith by His Sacraments. Make us attentive to their voice that we may be kept from danger and secured in the truth so that nothing can snatch us from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, we have seen Your goodness in the still quiet waters and rich green pastures You daily and richly provide. Give us wise and grateful hearts that we may receive Your grace with thanksgiving and treasure them in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

P Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for [*names, and*] all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. [*Hear us especially for \_\_\_\_\_, that they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.*]

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your shepherding care. Bring us at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be inserted here.*

P Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## 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.**

## BENEDICTION

*Hebrews 13:20–21*

P Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN “Shepherd of Tender Youth” LSB 864**

- 1 Shepherd of tender youth,  
Guiding in love and truth  
Through devious ways;  
Christ, our triumphant king,  
We come Your name to sing  
And here our children bring  
To join Your praise.
  
- 2 You are the holy Lord,  
O all-subduing Word,  
Healer of strife.  
Yourself You did abase  
That from sin’s deep disgrace  
You so might save our race  
And give us life.
  
- 3 You are the great High Priest;  
You have prepared the feast  
Of holy love;  
And in our mortal pain  
None calls on You in vain;  
Our plea do not disdain;  
Help from above.
  
- 4 O ever be our guide,  
Our shepherd, and our pride,  
Our staff and song.  
Jesus, O Christ of God,  
By Your enduring Word  
Lead us where You have trod;  
Make our faith strong.
  
- 5 So now, and till we die,  
Sound we Your praises high  
And joyful sing:  
Infants and all the throng,  
Who to the Church belong,  
Unite to swell the song  
To Christ, our king!

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt. Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716-96; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship: Select Hymns, 1985  
Text and music: Public domain

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