

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” LSB 901

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
 Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

- 2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
 Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

- 3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
 Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
 Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
 While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Heavenly Father, we come before You as Your children, seeking pardon for our wrongdoing, and to ask for strengthened faith and renewed love.

C: Forgive us, Father, for the times we, like sheep, have strayed from Your leadership and sought other pastures we thought were greener. From the bottom of our hearts we regret that daily we give in to our immediate selfish desires instead of Your desires for our daily walk with You as our Good Shepherd into eternity.

Forgive us, Father, for when we have heard Your Word but disregarded it. Deep down in our hearts, we know better, and we want to do better at being Your children, trusting You for everything that is eternal. For the sake of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, forgive us, and by Your Holy Spirit renew us to be about Your will and Your ways. Amen.

P: Hear the Good News: Jesus said, "I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep," and "I know My sheep and my sheep know Me and I know the Father." As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, who laid down His life for the sheep and took it up again; and by His authority as a called and ordained undershepherd of the Good Shepherd, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 10:11-18)

C: Amen.

KYRIE LSB 204

**C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Holy Spirit, You are a gift and a blessing. You call us from death and despair to faith and faithfulness and assure of resurrection and life in Christ, who has brought about our atonement. Enlighten our hearts that we may rejoice in the power and blessing of Your presence in and among us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 48:10–16

Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too." Then Joseph removed them from Israel's knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel's right hand, and brought them close to him.

But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm -may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth." (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 5:1–11

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to

serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11–18

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (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 Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” LSB 710

- 1 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for His own name’s sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON *I AM the Good Shepherd* John 10:11-18

OFFERING

HYMN “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living” LSB 706

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving.
May His will in us be done.
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ’s humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.
- 3 Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life’s end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

We pray for all Christians around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer. We ask You, O Lord,

C: hear us for Your mercy's sake.

P: We pray for all nations of the earth, that in all places on earth there may be times of peace. We pray for people in lands where there has been upset and strife. And we pray for our own nation that it may know safety and the people may be joyful in their daily lives. We ask You, O Lord,

C: hear us for Your mercy's sake.

P: We pray for all those whose labor serves us, especially those in the military, our police personnel, medical workers, and all those whose efforts support the common good. We ask You, O Lord,

C: hear us for Your mercy's sake.

P: We pray for the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs, bringing to You our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes, [*including . . .*]. We ask You, O Lord,

C: hear us for Your mercy's sake.

P: In this time of prayer, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors. Lord, inspire us by the witness of the faithful from all generations that we may complete our earthly journeys with confidence in Your gracious promises as they did in their lifetimes. We ask You, O Lord,

C: hear us for Your mercy's sake.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN “Abide, O Dearest Jesus” LSB 919

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav’nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error’s gloomy night.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.
- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

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