



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
Fourth Sunday in Easter  
April 30, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY.  
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

**As We Gather** – Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.

**Call to Worship – Oceans & I Will Follow** *(Two songs lyrics projected onto chancel walls)*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation and Opening Sentences**

**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!

**P** The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

**C** He leads us and restores our souls.

**P** He walks beside us through the darkness

**C** and never abandons us, even in death.

**P** He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

**C** and we will dwell in His house forever.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Heavenly Father,

**G** **we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.**

**P** Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise 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.

**G** **Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

## Introit

*Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd.

**I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

### I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

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.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God,

**and a great King above all gods.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God,

**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

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.

**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.**

I am the good shepherd.

**I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

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.

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**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 2:42–47*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **G** **Thanks be to God.**

### What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1.</b> What a friend we have in Jesus<br/>All our sins and griefs to bear<br/>What a privilege to carry<br/>Everything to God in prayer<br/>O what peace we often forfeit<br/>O what needless pain we bear<br/>All because we do not carry<br/>Everything to God in prayer</p>                        | <p><b>2.</b> Have we trials and temptations<br/>Is there trouble anywhere<br/>We should never be discouraged<br/>Take it to the Lord in prayer<br/>Can we find a friend so faithful<br/>Who will all our sorrows share<br/>Jesus knows our every weakness<br/>Take it to the Lord in prayer</p> |
| <p><b>3.</b> Are we weak and heavy laden<br/>Cumbered with a load of care<br/>Precious Savior still our refuge<br/>Take it to the Lord in prayer<br/>Do thy friends despise forsake thee<br/>Take it to the Lord in prayer<br/>In His arms He'll take and shield thee<br/>Thou wilt find a solace there</p> |   |

## Verse

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

**Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

John 10:1–10

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter. **G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon for Good Shepherd Sunday – “The Power of the Lord’s Presence”

### I Am Not Alone

When I walk through deep waters  
I know that You will be with me  
When I'm standing in the fire  
I will not be overcome  
Through the valley of the shadow  
I will not fear

***CHORUS: I am not alone  
I am not alone  
You will go before me  
You will never leave me***

In the midst of deep sorrow  
I see Your light is breaking through  
The dark of night will not overtake me  
I am pressing into You  
Lord You fight my ev'ry battle  
And I will not fear

***BRIDGE: You amaze me redeem me  
You call me as Your own  
You amaze me redeem me  
You call me as Your own***

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You're my strength You're my defender  
You're my refuge in the storm  
Through these trials You've always been faithful  
You bring healing to my soul

### Apostles' Creed

**C** 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.**

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING** available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info) – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

## Prayer of the Church

*Incorporating LSB 709:6*

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**MEN** – Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**WOMEN** – Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**MEN** – Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**WOMEN** – Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend us as our Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**C** **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.**

## Forever

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise sing praise sing praise

***CHORUS: Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
forever forever***

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise  
sing praise sing praise ***CHORUS***

## 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**G** Amen.

## Postlude - I Will Follow

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
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