



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter
“Good Shepherd Sunday”
April 21, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD’S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

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

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 – Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

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

G Amen.

Opening Sentences

John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48

P Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

G **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

P To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

C **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

C **And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!**

P Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and pray for His gracious forgiveness. We begin our time of Confession and Absolution as we sing the hymn "Out of the Deep I Call."

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

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 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

C **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

I *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

II *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

C **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.**

I *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

II *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

C **Glorify 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.**

Epistle

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we

keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of
 God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -
 serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:11–18

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

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

¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – "Listening to the Good Shepherd" Outline

1. Recognizing voices...
2. Can you be 100% honest saying that you desire to hear your Good Shepherd all the time... to hear Him speak through the Word spoken and preached at church? Are you 100% sure that you know and listen for His voice... and follow it?
 - a. If we always followed the Good Shepherd's voice, He wouldn't have had to come to rebuke sin, call for repentance, and die for sin. We'd need no rebuking if we always listened for and followed Jesus' voice.
 - b. Being unrepentant is a sad, tragic and eternally dangerous condition in which to remain.
 - c. If we're always listening to and following the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
 - i. who would **want** to miss church? We'd desire to hear the Truth! We'd want to live in daily repentance.
 - ii. We'd want to be "all in"... serving, loving, trusting, not gossiping, not being divisive, forgiving each other, being kind...
3. Jesus calls Christians to be in community! Be actively involved in supporting a church that preaches the Word of God purely and administers the sacraments rightly. And wherever your church membership is, be "all in" – be faithful... building each other up.
4. Jesus doesn't desire success in the way you think of or what you deem as success. The Good Shepherd desires faithfulness.
5. Your church family is where the Sabbath rest is that your Good Shepherd calls you to honour and observe... so you'll be fed and nourished by His Word and Sacraments.

- a. God doesn't need us...
 - b. He set up Church for us! We need what He desires to give us within the context of corporate worship.
 - c. You cannot truly know Jesus Christ apart from His Word and His Means of Grace, which He offers regularly in the context of a home congregation.
6. Tragically we justify ourselves for not attending regularly... and in our excuses we are actually despising God's Word and breaking His Commandments.
 - a. When we look at church as optional, we miss out on the reasons God wants to meet us in our home congregation regularly!
 - b. We instead listen to others... or our own hearts... which typically does not line up with God's will for us.
 7. The devil uses all these excuses and justifications to break and destroy you! He can even trick you into mainly focusing on your service to others and in the church (a reason, yes, but not the main reason for being part of a church) – as he tries to starve your faith and rob you of Christian joy.
 8. All these mind-sets and heart attitudes can produce other terrible and tragic consequences in people's lives... in their children... in their families... and destroy testimonies, ultimately destroying faith.
 - a. People can become numb to, forget, or be willingly ignorant God's miraculous dealings... no matter how many years they've attended church...
 - b. People can be robbed of their hope and effectively reject the promises of God.
 9. Remember God's promises. The Good Shepherd doesn't lie.
 - a. "Behold, the Lamb of God, ***who takes away the sin of the world!***"
 - b. "In the Stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus and Savior, and by His authority, I announce the grace of God unto you. ***Your sins are forgiven...***"
 - c. "Take eat, this is my body... Take and drink... this is my blood... ***for the forgiveness of ALL YOUR SINS.***"
 - d. Even though you may not "feel" forgiven, forgiveness is not based on your thoughts and feelings. Forgiveness is based on the Good Shepherd's Word of Promise!
 - e. You are the Lord's. The Good Shepherd marked you with His name upon your head and heart. You are redeemed. You can hear His voice and know the Good Shepherd in whose arms you can have true peace.

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host 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.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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 – 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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others.

Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His undershepherds and all who care for His flock.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, [*especially...*].

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

G Amen.

Hymn Sequence

P The image of the loving Shepherd featured in Psalm 23 reminds us that our Lord is always with us, ready to guide us and to support us. The image is one that resonates with young children and has been featured in hymns texts used in Sunday School hymnals. The hymn "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" first appeared in a volume *Hymns for the Young, selected for the purpose of being committed to memory* in England in 1832. We might well follow the directive of the hymnbook's title and commit this special hymn to memory. We sing the first two stanzas of "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us."

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.

P Originally framed as a hymn for children, “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” contains solid biblical truths. We rejoice that our Lord has bought us and that He defends us in many ways, even though we are sinful. His caring mercy is experienced in all our days. As faithful followers of the Good Shepherd, we seek to do His will in our lives as we experience His divine love. We sing stanzas three and four of the hymn.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly

sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly

lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have

let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

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.

I Will Follow

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow

(Oh oh oh)

1. 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

***CHORUS: Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow (You)***

Yeah I will follow You yeah

2. Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone

BRIDGE 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 ***CHORUS***

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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.

G Amen.

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