

NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter – “Good Shepherd Sunday” – April 21st, 2024 (11:11 am)

NOT A SHEPHERD BUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 23
Acts 4:1-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

The Lord Jesus is “the good shepherd” who “lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the “authority to lay it down” and the “authority to take it up again” (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be “one flock, one shepherd” (John 10:16). That is why the apostles “were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:2). Since “there is salvation in no one else,” His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, “for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to “love one another” and “to lay down our lives for the brothers,” as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG - RESURRECTION HYMN

See what a morning gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen
See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead
 See Mary weeping where is He laid
 As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
 Hears a voice speaking calling her name
 It's the Master the Lord raised to life again
 The voice that spans the years
 Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us
 Will sound till He appears
 For He lives Christ is risen from the dead
One with the Father Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

CCLI Song # 4108797
Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
© 2003 Thankyou Music

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

AS WE BEGIN and CALLING ON GOD'S NAME (Pastor)

P - In the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS - (said in unison) (Pastor)

C - Dear God, beloved Father! Even though the world tries to tell us something different, we know from Your Word that we are sinners and that we have the tendency to walk away from You. We come before your presence to confess our sins. We see You and come to Your presence through our Good Shepherd Jesus, who took our sin, our cross and our shame. Receive our humble confession, and forgive us all our sins. In Jesus' name, we pray! *(Brief silence)*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Pastor)

P – Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep”. *(John 10:14-15)* Dear friend! Go in peace, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the FATHER, the SON and the HOLY SPIRIT. Go and stay close to the Good Shepherd Jesus because He Knows what's better for us. Amen!

PSALM 23 - THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (Pastor and Congregation)

P - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C - He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

P - 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,

P - I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

C - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

P - you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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

KIDS SONG – O SHEPHERD, GOOD SHEPHERD

O Shepherd, Good Shepherd, I'm lost and alone,
I've strayed from your presence and far from my home.

I need You to save me, I need the way,
The way to You, with You I will stay.

“Come back from harm, come back to my arms”.

Surrounded by wolves, I fear for my life.

They howl at me loudly, they cause me much strife.

All hope fading quickly, great harm my fate,

Please find me soon, before it's too late.

“Come back from harm, come back to my arms”.

I hear You, Good Shepherd, You call out my name.

You found me, no fear now, and gone is my shame.

I follow your voice, the gate opens wide,

I run to You for heaven's inside.

Now in your care forever I bide.

O Shepherd, Good Shepherd, my God and my Lord,

I hunger to know You, I thirst for your Word.
Forever You love me, always I'm safe,
Forever saved, through your endless grace.
I'm safe from harm, in your arms embraced.

Melody: Paulo Brum, May 2020
Harmonization: Paulo Brum, August 2020
Text: Bruce Hatcher and Paulo Brum, August 2020
11 11 10 9 9

KIDS MOMENT – (Shelby)

WORSHIP SONGS – THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid

And I think I've lost my way

Still You're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear

As long as You are near

Please be near me to the end

I will not forget

Your love for me and yet

My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide

And hold me to Your side

I will love You to the end

CCLI Song # 14301
Amy Grant | Michael W. Smith
© 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Curb Word Music
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 2059912

PRAYER BEFORE READINGS (*Reader can do this prayer*)

Dear God. Thank you for this opportunity to listen to your Word. I ask that you open our hearts and minds to your Holy Spirit, and that we can understand what You are saying to us, your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING – ACTS 4:1-12 - (Andy)

Peter and John Before the Council

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

⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been

healed, ¹⁰ let 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. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

READING OF THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN 3:16-24 - (Andy)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But 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? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And 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. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

READING OF THE GOSPEL FROM JOHN 10:11-18 - (Andy)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He 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. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And 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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No 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.”

WORSHIP SONG – PSALM 23 (THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD)

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still still waters
His goodness restores my soul
And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home
I will trust I will trust in You
I will trust I will trust in You
Endless mercy follows me
Goodness will lead me home
He guides my ways in righteousness

And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights
 And though I walk the darkest path
 I will not fear the evil one
 For You are with me
 And Your rod and staff
 Are the comfort I need to know

CCLI Song # 1585970
Stuart Townend
© 1996 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Thankyou Music
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 2059912

MESSAGE – “NOT A SHEPHERD BUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD” – John 10:11-18

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - "BECAUSE GOD LOVES ME"

Because God loves me, He is slow to lose patience with me.

Because God loves me, He takes the circumstances of my life, and uses them in a constructive way for my growth.

Because God loves me, He is for me. He wants to see me mature and develop in His love.

Because God loves me, He does not keep score of all my sins and then beat me over the head with them.

Because God loves me, He rejoices when I experience His power and strength, and when I stand up under the pressures of life for His name's sake.

Because God loves me, He keeps on working patiently with me, even when I feel like giving up.

Because God loves me, He keeps on trusting me when at times I don't even trust myself.

Because God loves me, He never says there is no hope for me. Rather, He patiently works with me, loves me and disciplines me in such a way that it is hard for me to understand the depth of His concern for me.

Because God loves me, He never forsakes me, even though many of my friends might.

Because God loves me, He stands with me when I have reached the rock bottom of despair, when I see the real me and compare that with His righteousness, holiness, beauty and love. It is at a moment like this that I can really believe that God loves me.

Yes, the greatest of all gifts is God's perfect love!

(a statement of faith based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - (Prayer)

LORD'S PRAYER (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.**

WORSHIP SONG (COMMUNION'S PREPARATION) - MY JESUS I LOVE THEE

My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
 I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
 And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
 I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
I'll love Thee in life I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
 In mansions of glory and endless delight
 I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
 I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

CCLI Song # 27817
Adoniram Judson Gordon | William Ralph Featherstone
© Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 2059912

'As a Lutheran Church, we believe that Jesus' body and blood are really and truly present in the Lord's Supper. And we believe that Jesus is giving real and true spiritual gifts to us through this eating and drinking: forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is pure gospel for our comfort and spiritual strength.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

These are our statements about Holy Communion:

- I know I am a sinner.
- I believe that Jesus is my personal Savior.
- I believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine.
- I intend, with God's help, to change my sinful life and live for him.
- I understand that when I come to this table, I publicly state that I believe these things.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Pastor)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread into his hands, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples with the words, **“Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”** In the same way, he took the cup, spoke a prayer of thanks over it, and said, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and all for the forgiveness of sins. Each time you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me.”** When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

¹ "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink."
(<https://catechism.cph.org/en/sacrament-of-the-altar.html>)

DISTRIBUTION – SONGS: “NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS”, “WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS” AND “AN EASTER HALLELUJAH”.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (Pastor)

BENEDICTION (Pastor)

P - The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST and the love of GOD and the communion of the HOLY SPIRIT be with you all. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING SONGS - ALL THE PEOPLE SAID AMEN

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need
***And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen***

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all
***Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God***

CCLI Song # 6518275

Matt Maher | Paul Moak | Trevor Morgan

© 2013 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Thankyou Music; Valley Of Songs Music; Trevor Morgan Music
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 2059912