



*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church  
Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday  
May 3, 2020**

*A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.*

*Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.*

*In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.*

**Before Service Prayer:** Jesus, my Good Shepherd who leads me, You know what lies ahead for me today and every day. By Your mighty power and tender love, turn my future, no matter what it is, to my eternal good. Guide me and guard me that I do not become lost in sin and unbelief. Amen.

**Today's Service:** "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

**Today's Theme:** Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of shepherd and sheep are certainly familiar to modern Christians, but do those concepts resonate as deeply for us as they did for the people of God 2000 years ago? "In such a landscape as Judea, where a day's pasture is thinly scattered over an unfenced tract of country, covered with delusive paths, frequented by wild beasts, and rolling off into the desert, the shepherd and his character are indispensable. On some high moor, across which at night the hyenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judea sprang to the front in his people's history; why they gave his name to their kings; why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice." (George Smith) On Good Shepherd Sunday we see how sharp the contrast is between true shepherds and false shepherds. All is determined by their relationship to Christ, the only gate for the sheep.

**Pastor's Welcome**

**Opening Hymn:** CW 375 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am His,  
And He is mine forever.**

Where streams of living water flow,  
My Savior gently leads me,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feeds me.

Confused and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With You, dear Lord, beside me;  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,  
A banquet here bestowing;  
Your oil of welcome, my delight;  
My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days  
Your goodness fails me never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise  
Within Your house forever!

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep.

**C: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

**C: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."**

### Confession and Absolution

P: We praise You, O Christ, as our Good Shepherd, for You willingly offered up Your life to save us, Your lambs and sheep. Yet, we realize that it is on account of our wanderings that it became necessary for You to sacrifice all on our behalf. Therefore, we humbly come before You, confessing our sin and awaiting Your word of forgiveness and comfort.

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)*

P: O Lord, so often we have not listened to Your voice as we should.

**C: Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

P: O Christ, we have strayed from You and have been disobedient.

**C: Have mercy on us, O Christ.**

P: O Lord, we have been rebellious and have turned to our own way, following our own wisdom, relying on our own strength.

**C: Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

P: Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, has laid His life down for His sheep on the cross. There He gave His life that all who believe in Him will not perish but have forgiveness for their sins and eternal life in His name. In the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of His resurrection from the dead, I, a called and ordained servant of the risen Savior, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Revelation 7:12**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,  
Who Your Father's flock does keep,  
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,  
Guarded still by You.**

**In Your promise firm we stand;  
None can take us from Your hand.  
Speak -- we hear -- at Your command,  
We will follow You.**

**By Your blood our souls were bought;  
By Your life salvation wrought;  
By Your light our feet are taught,  
Lord, to follow You.**

**Father, draw us to Your Son;  
We with joy will follow on  
Till the work of grace is done,  
There to live with You.**

**We, in robes of glory dressed,  
Join th' assembly of the blest,  
Gathered to eternal rest  
In the fold with You. (CW 436)**

### *The Prayer of the Day*

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd who laid down Your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of Your life-giving Word that we may abide in Your Father's house forevermore; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The First Lesson: 1 SAMUEL 17:34-37* (Long before he was the royal shepherd of the kingdom of Israel, David shepherded his father's flock in the wild country. He let no danger stop him from caring for his sheep. No law required a shepherd to fight lion and bear for the sake of the sheep. In fact, David's words here and Christ's in John 10 are all the more striking because Rabbinic law made it clear that a shepherd was not called upon to expose his own life for the safety of his flock. David, a good shepherd, knew what he spoke of when he extolled the comfort of the Shepherd's rod and staff in Psalm 23. See his words fulfilled in great David's greater Son!)

<sup>34</sup>But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup>I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup>Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup>The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you." (NIV 2011)

*Psalm of the Day: Psalm 23* (Read in unison)

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

**<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

**<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. (KJV)**

*The Second Lesson: 1 PETER 2:19-25* (Peter reminds us that not even suffering and tragedy can remove us from the care of our Good Shepherd. To be the gate for straying sheep meant that Jesus had to suffer for us. So Jesus did—willingly, silently—bearing the sins of straying sheep. Now Peter calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good.)

<sup>19</sup>For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>"He Himself bore our sins" in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed." <sup>25</sup>For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (NIV 2011)

*Verse of the Day:* (Sung by the Pastor) Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me. Alleluia!

*Stand*

*The Gospel Lesson:* **JOHN 10:1-11** (*The preceding context of this lesson is crucial. After Jesus healed the man born blind, the Pharisees interrogated the man and his family about the healing. The Pharisees had already rejected Jesus as the Christ and were expelling from the synagogue anyone who confessed Christ. After throwing the man out of the synagogue, they verbally accosted Jesus. This lesson is His answer to them. Jesus' "I am" statements highlight the exclusivity of the Christian message. Christ is Savior, and there is no other! Jesus is the only gate for the sheep, and there is no other! When a man approaches the sheep, one only needs to see how he enters the pen. Does he use the gate, i.e., does he confess Christ as Savior? True shepherds use the gate, preach Christ, and love the sheep. False shepherds refuse the gate, reject Christ, and destroy the flock.*)

1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what He was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Hymn of the Day:* CWS 766 "The Lord's My Shepherd"

**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.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me The quiet waters by.**

**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.  
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.**

**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.  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.  
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.**

## The Sermon

### The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

The Offering (*Place your offering in the plate on the podium in the entryway to the church.*)

### The Prayer of the Church

*Each petition ends with:*

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

P: 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.**

P: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight. And the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you now and forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: CW 432 “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

I am Jesus' little lamb;  
Ever glad at heart I am,  
For my shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my needs and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.

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.

Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel hosts attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

The Announcements

