

resurrection
REALity



The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding

Easter 4

April 20/21, 2024

Theme of the Day: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

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Series Theme: *Resurrection Reality*

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (*1 Corinthians 15:20*). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of the Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (*1 Corinthians 15:22*). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

Our worship follows this pattern.

March 31	Without the Resurrection Faith is Futile	Easter Sunday
April 6/7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace	Easter 2
April 13/14	We Have a Meaningful Message to Share	Easter 3
April 20/21	The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding	Easter 4
April 27/28	The Living Lord Produces Active Faith	Easter 5
May 4/5	Jesus’ Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours	Easter 6
May 11/12	Christ’s Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever	Ascension
May 18/19	Christ Has Not Left Us Alone	Pentecost



A Note to All Our Guests

During this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Since this sacrament is the Lord's Supper and not ours, we are careful to follow our Lord's instructions. In particular, we take to heart these important truths:

1. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus truly gives us his body and blood together with the bread and the wine. Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body...Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood" (*Matthew 26:26-28*).
2. In the Lord's Supper, we express a unity of faith with one another. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (*1 Corinthians 10:17*).
3. Our Lord urges us to practice this unity with great love and care. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (*1 Corinthians 11:27,29*).

Because we take these truths seriously, we invite all communicant members of our congregation or of a sister congregation in the Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune with us today. However, we ask that those who are not members of a sister congregation refrain from taking the Lord's Supper with us at this time. In doing this, we are not judging anyone's faith. Out of love for our Lord and all people, we simply desire to discuss the Bible's teachings with our guests before communing together. We want all who commune to receive the Lord's Supper for their benefit and in a way that follows our Lord's instructions. If you have any questions about this or any other teaching of the Bible-or if you would like information about how to join our congregation-please feel free to speak to our pastor.

We Come into the Presence of God

Musical Introduction

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

Hymn: 822 Pass Me Not

sts. 1–2, Ref



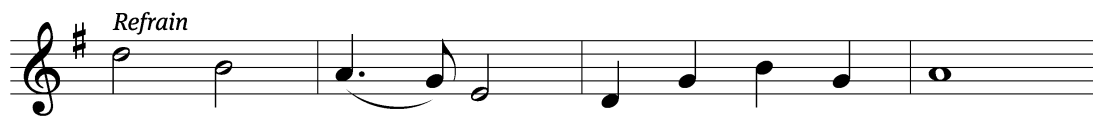
1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my
2 Let me at thy throne of mer - cy find a



hum - ble cry; while on oth - ers thou art
sweet re - lief; kneel - ing there in deep con -



call - ing, do not pass me by. v. 2
tri - tion, help my un - be - lief. Refrain



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;



while on oth - ers thou art call - ing, do not pass me by.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Tune: William Doane, 1832–1915
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer and Praise

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For the well-being of your Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

Amen.

Hymn: 822 Pass Me Not

sts. 3-4, Ref



3 Trust - ing on - ly in thy mer - it, would I
4 Thou the spring of all my com - fort, more than



seek thy face; heal my wound - ed, bro - ken
life to me, whom have I on earth be -



spir - it, save me by thy grace. *v. 4*
side thee, whom in heav'n but thee. *Refrain*



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;



while on oth - ers thou art call - ing, do not pass me by.

We Listen

First Reading

Acts 20:28–32

²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23

Spoken responsively as marked

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
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.

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

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading

1 John 4:1–6

¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Gospel

John 10:11–18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to 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 authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Children's Message



Hymn of the Day: 551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
joy will fol - low on till the work of
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
grace is done, there to live with you.
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

We Respond

Offering

*If you would like to give an offering, there is an offering plate by the back door of church.
If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering.
You enrich us simply by being here.*

Prayer of the Church

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.**

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution

Guests, please read and take note of the explanation of our communion practice on page 3 in this service folder. If you have any questions about this or any other Bible teaching, please feel free to speak to the pastor after the service. We thank you for your help.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Solo: 554 The Lord's My Shepherd

Vocalist - Casey Kippes
Accompanist – Paula Danekas

1 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. (Refrain)

Ref 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.

2 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. (Refrain)

3 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. (Refrain)

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Song of Simeon: 951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Song of Simeon'. It consists of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the fifth staff.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989

Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: 804 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.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782

Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784

Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Musical Interlude

This is an opportunity to sign the red Friendship Register at the end of your pew.

It is the mission of



to

Grow in the Word

and to

Go with the Word



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of 1250 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 45 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 34 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.



Why do we exist as a church?
What is our mission?
Why does it matter?

Join us at 9:15 am in the sanctuary for
a challenging, motivating, and empowering study about
the most important mission in history . . .

the mission of the church.

Serving in Worship

Pastor: Jon Bergemann
Organist: Casey Kippes
Ushers: Erik Guldberg, Ed Boron,
and Dale Graefnitz
Communion
Setup/Cleanup: Debbie O'Malley and
Fran Piepenbrink
Communion
Assistants: John Roland, Todd Paradis
and Doug Semenske
Greeters: Laurel and Dave Bowen
AV Team: Bob Reichert, Joe Garetto,
Kristen Reynolds,
Zach Dankert

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All children aged PreK-6th grade are welcome to join us to learn about God's word through stories, music and activities. We will meet in the school library, at the end of the school hallway, on Sundays from 9:10-10:20a. Email BLAST@gsdg.org



**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN ACADEMY**

To know, to grow, and to show.

Acknowledgments

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