

✠ The Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠  
“Good Shepherd Sunday”  
May 11, 2025

**Hymn of Invocation:** “*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*” *LSB 709*

- 1    The King of love my shepherd is,  
      Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
      And He is mine forever.
- 2    Where streams of living water flow,  
      My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
      With food celestial feedeth.
- 3    Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
      But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
      And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4    In death’s dark vale I fear no ill  
      With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
      Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5    Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
      Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
      From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6    And so through all the length of days  
      Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
      Within Thy house forever!

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*LSB 184*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 184*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

*LSB 185*

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

*Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13; 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.

**He chose David his servant and took him from the | sheepfolds;\***  
**from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd**  
**Jacob his people, Israel his in- | heritance.**

With upright heart he shep- | herded them\*  
and guided them with his | skillful hand.

**But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to**  
**you for- | ever;\***

**from generation to generation we will re- | count your praise.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**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.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*

**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 187*

**P** Glory be to God on high:  
**C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our  
prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have  
mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**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.

*Sit*

### First Reading

*Acts 20:17–35*

*(Paul commends the word of grace to the church overseers as they care for the flock.)*

<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup>serving the Lord with all

humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

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



Christ has risen | from the dead.\*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*  
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

## Epistle

*Revelation 7:9–17*

*(On the heavenly throne, John sees the Lamb  
who has conquered death and become the Shepherd.)*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 10:22–30*

*(Jesus affirms that no one following His voice can be snatched from Him. He and the Father are one.)*

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

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

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

**and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:** *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

*LSB 711*

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.



Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.

- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.

**Sermon:** *"Coming through Tribulation, Washed in His Blood"*

*Text: Revelation 7:9-17; Acts 20:17-35; John 10:22-30*

*Stand*

**Offertory**

*LSB 192*

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

**Preface**

*LSB 194*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**Proper Preface**

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places to give You thanks and praise, O Lord, holy and almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in Your Son has redeemed us from sin and its death and risen in glory as the firstfruits of those who sleep and by the Holy Spirit through whom we are united with Christ by faith and live in this Easter hope. As Jesus was raised from death never to die again, bring us with Him through death to the life death cannot claim, where tears no more flow, sorrow no more stills the heart, suffering is banished, and joy is perfect. Therefore with angels, archangels, the apostles and martyrs, and all who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, we give You thanks and praise and join in their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

*LSB 195*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** 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.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

*LSB 197*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn:** *“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”* *LSB 710*

1 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.

2 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.

- 3    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.
- 4    My table Thou hast furnishèd  
      In presence of my foes;  
      My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
      And my cup overflows.
- 5    Goodness and mercy all my life  
      Shall surely follow me;  
      And in God's house forevermore  
      My dwelling place shall be.

**Distribution Hymn:** *"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

*LSB 725*

- 1    Children of the heav'nly Father  
      Safely in His bosom gather;  
      Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
      Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2    God His own doth tend and nourish;  
      In His holy courts they flourish.  
      From all evil things He spares them;  
      In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3    Neither life nor death shall ever  
      From the Lord His children sever;  
      Unto them His grace He showeth,  
      And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4    Though He giveth or He taketh,  
      God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
      His the loving purpose solely  
      To preserve them pure and holy.

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast  
prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people  
Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen.

## Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

## Post-Communion Collect

- P** *Let us pray...* We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You  
have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You  
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same  
in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Salutation

LSB 201

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

LSB 202

- P** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen, amen, amen.

**Hymn to Depart:** *“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

*LSB 735/410*

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;  
Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen  
To give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;  
Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you  
In His love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;  
Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you,  
Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;  
Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you,  
In all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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