FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY/MOTHER’S DAY

My Sheep Hear My Voice, and I Know Them

AS WE GATHER

Jesus the Good Shepherd is the familiar theme of the Fourth Sunday of Easter. He is our Good Shepherd because He lays down His life for us. We are His sheep because we hear His voice, and by the power of the Spirit, we recognize His voice and rejoice in Him. He knows us, and we know Him. That is our comfort and our hope. As we find peace in the words of Psalm 23, so do we find hope in its fulfillment in Christ. He shows us the Father, He gives us eternal life, and He keeps us safe in the face of all our enemies.
GATHERING SONG

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me Oh His love for me

CHORUS: Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed
I’m a child of God Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me Yes He died for me CHORUS

In my Father’s house There’s a place for me I’m a child of God Yes I am

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am
You are for me Not against me I am who You say I am

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am
You are for me Not against me I am who You say I am I am who You say I am

CHORUS

In my Father’s house There’s a place for me I’m a child of God Yes I am

※ PREPARATION ※

PRELUDE JACOB’S LADDER Wednesday Night Live! Handchimes

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD! Tomlin—Reeves—Cash

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

CHORUS: How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. CHORUS
INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the * Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We all, like sheep, have gone astray;
People: each of us has turned to his own way.
Pastor: But the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,
People: so we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

Silence for reflection and examination

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:
People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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. May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People: Amen.

* WORD *

FIRST READING: Acts 20:17–35
(I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the whole counsel of God.)

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth
nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. 

"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep 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. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

"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. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: `It is more blessed to give than to receive.' 

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Revelation 7:9–17
(The Lamb will be their Shepherd.)

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:
"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."
All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:
"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?"
I answered, "Sir, you know."
And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 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 spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:22–30
(No one can snatch the sheep out of the Shepherd’s hand.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Happy Mother's Day

Jenna Lawrenz
SONG OF THE DAY  IN CHRIST ALONE  
Townend—Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found.  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh.  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,  
up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death.  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life’s first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

NICENE CREED  
Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

SERMON  
“Sheep or Goats?”  
Pastor John Larson  
Text: John 10:22-30

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor:  The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People:  And also with you.
Everyone needs compassion, Love that’s never failing.
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations

**CHORUS:** Savior, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again. I give my life to follow,
Everything I believe in. Now I surrender. **CHORUS**

Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. **CHORUS**

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**HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION**

*The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.*
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
[Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Pastor: 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

COME TO THE TABLE  Sidewalk Prophets

We all start on the outside The outside looking in
This is where grace begins We were hungry, we were thirsty
With nothing left to give Oh the shape that we were in
Just when all hope seemed lost Love opened the door for us, He said:

CHORUS: “Come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table”

Come meet this motley crew of misfits These liars and these thieves
There’s no one unwelcome here So that sin and shame that you brought with you
You can leave it at the door Let mercy draw you near  CHORUS

Come to the table Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free Whoa...
Sit down and be set free Come to the table Come to the table
Sit down and be set free Come to the table
How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

CHORUS:  Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
          Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
          You have broken every chain
          There's salvation in Your name
          Jesus Christ, my living hope (TWICE)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the victory, (whoa!)  CHORUS

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope
And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

CHORUS: 'Cause Jesus paid it all
   All to Him I owe
   Sin had left a crimson stain
   He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone  CHORUS

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat  CHORUS

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION  Hebrews 13:20–21

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord
   Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal
   covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working
   in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be
   glory forever and ever.

People:  Amen.
Pastor: 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.  Numbers 6:24–26

People:  Amen.
Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, 
whose love is mighty and so much stronger? 
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, 
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? 
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

**CHORUS:** This is amazing grace,  
this is unfailing love,  
that You would take my place,  
that You would bear my cross. 
You laid down Your life  
that I would be set free.  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for  
all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order, 
who makes the orphan a son and daughter? 
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, 
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance? 
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. **CHORUS**

**CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS**
## Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**  
Pastor John Larson

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**  
Michael Zehnder

**CHOIR ACCOMPANIST**  
Diana Gaide

**YOUTH BAND**  
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

**ELDER**  
Scott Luethy

**LECTOR**  
8:00  
Dennis Lord  
10:30  
Jude Donovan

**ACOLYTE**  
8:00  
Chrissy Coon  
10:30  
Hannah Schmitt

**USHERS**  
8:00  
Barry Kratzer, Ann Ranisate, Members of the Congregation  
10:30  
Jason Dierking, Holly Schmitt, Members of the Congregation

**SERVER**  
10:30  
Collin Brinkman

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Phyllis McConnell, Tricia McCulley, Sharon Seible, Cathy Utecht

**FLOWERS**  
Jim and Laurie Mullane, In loving memory of Ben

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“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you…”  
*Isaiah 66:13, NIV*