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.
Prelude

“Chaconne”
Louis Couperin

Pastoral Greeting

Tolling of the Bell

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

Entrance Hymn

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735

Kyrie (spoken)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Splendor and Honor”  
LSB 950

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Blessed Good Shepherd, You speak, and we recognize Your voice. You call to us through the voice of Your Word, and we follow You. You give us eternal life, and we shall never perish. Keep us safe in the palm of Your hand, and comfort our hearts from all our fears so that we belong to You forever. For You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

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 Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE  Romans 6:9; John 10:14

Pastor:  Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
People:  Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY  “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”  LSB 709
Note: Verses 3 and 5 will be sung in CANON.
Right side starts;
Left side follows after first 3 notes.

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

Pastor: Let us come before the Lamb and His throne and bring to Him the prayers of all His people and everyone according to their needs.

Shepherd of love, You have delivered us from our sins and from the power of death and made us Your people forever. Give to us Your Spirit that we know the fullness of Your goodness now until we know Your joy forever in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Deliver us from all our enemies, keep us in safe amid the dangers and terrors of this mortal life, and bring us to everlasting life through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give wisdom to those who lead us in this land, peace to the nations, courage to pursue justice for all people, and protection for those who protect and defend us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Wipe every tear from Your people, and give to the sick and those who suffer in mind or in body healing, comfort, strength, and patience according to Your gracious will, [especially . . .]. Give peace to the dying, and comfort the grieving in their sorrow and loss. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: [Additional intercessions may be added here…]. Strengthen them with Your Spirit and keep them firm in their faith. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give to us Your Holy Spirit and faith that we recognize Your presence in this Holy Sacrament, rejoice in its gift and treasure, and receive it for our eternal good. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.
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.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is good and right, our duty and our delight to give You thanks and praise, O Lord, holy and almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His 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 (Divine Service, Setting Three)

C  

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sab-a-oth;  

Heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hos-an-na,  

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He,  

Bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.
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.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Three)

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.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711
“Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB 725
“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” LSB 740
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.

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
HYMN
“Father Welcomes”  LSB 605

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE  “Splendor and Honor”  Benjamin Culli
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
Dennis Lord
8:00
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