

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*April 29-30, 2023*

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER**

### **THE DOOR AND THE SHEPHERD**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Prelude** "Concerto in A Minor" Vivaldi-Bach

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" LSB 465

**Invocation**

### OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**Pastor:** The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

**People:** **He leads us and restores our souls.**

**Pastor:** He walks beside us through the darkness

**People:** **and never abandons us, even in death.**

**Pastor:** He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

**People:** **and we will dwell in His house forever.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father,

**People:** **we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

### Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

**Pastor:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For 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**

**"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"**

**LSB 474**

**Verses 1 and 5**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -  
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



*Refrain*  
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

✂ WORD ✂

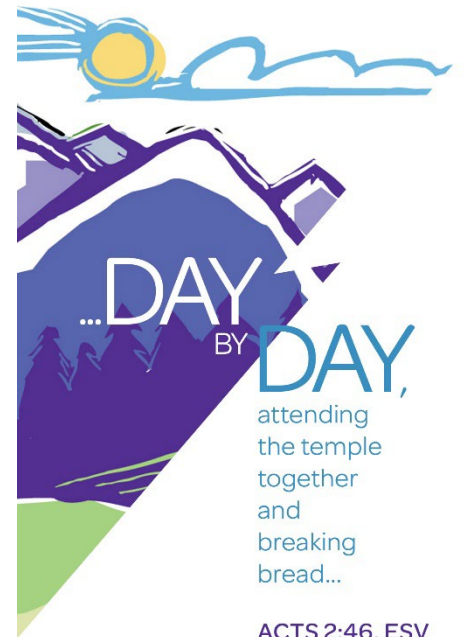
**First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47**

*(Devoted to the Apostles' teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of the bread)*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



**Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*(We are returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.)*

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 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. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

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. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC (8:00)**

“My Shepherd, the King of Love”

arr. Joshua Evanovich  
Lillie Hendricks, flute  
Gloria Dei Ringers

*Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.*

**VERSE**     *Romans 6:9; John 10:4*

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.**

Pastor:     The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

**People:**     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10**

*(Jesus is the door of the sheep.)*

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



**Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

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  
All Verses

**Verse 3** in Canon: Right side starts; Left side enters after “Perverse...”

**Verse 5** in Canon: Right side starts; Left side enters after “Thou Spreadst...”

**Sermon**

“God’s Comfort”

Pastor John Larson

Text: John 10:1-10

**Apostle’s Creed**

*(found in the back of the hymnal)*

**Prayer of the Church**

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

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

**People: And also with you.**

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!*

**Offering** *(4:00 pm & 10:30 am - collected in the back; 8:00 am – collected in the pews)*

**Offering Music (8:00)** "Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes"

arr. Paul Manz

**✠ 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 (Divine Service, Setting One)**

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**

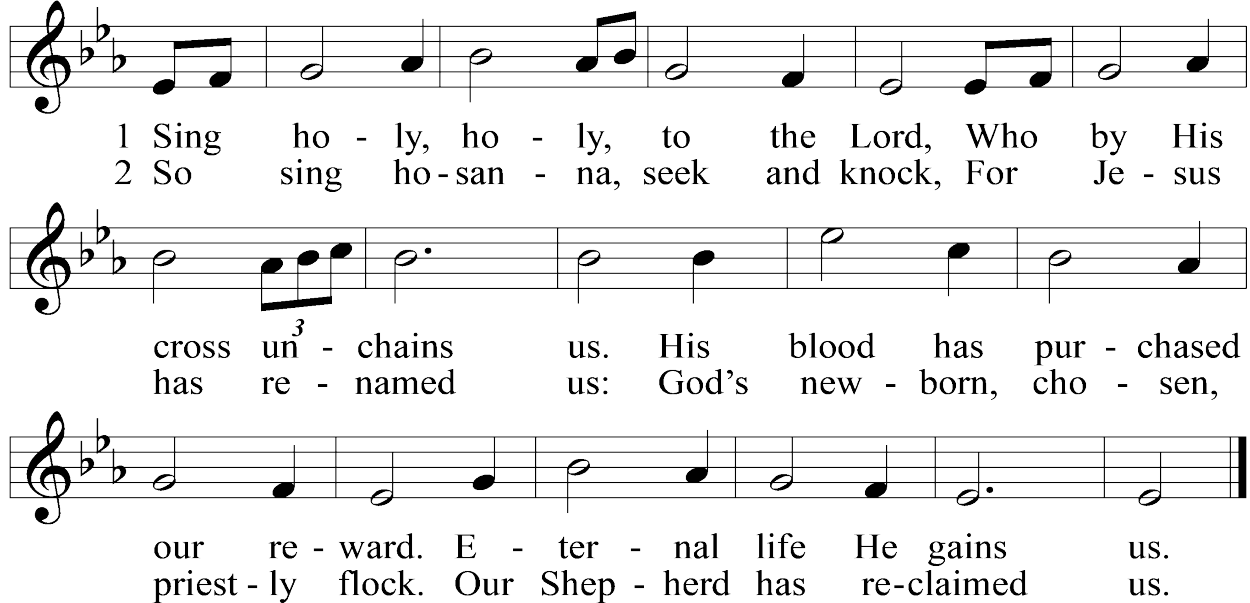
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is the Good Shepherd who leads us to the green pastures and still waters of Your Word and Sacraments. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven

we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

“Sing Holy, Holy to the Lord”

Andrew Jones



1 Sing ho - ly, ho - ly, to the Lord, Who by His  
2 So sing ho - san - na, seek and knock, For Je - sus

cross un<sup>3</sup> - chains us. His blood has pur - chased  
has re - named us: God's new - born, cho - sen,

our re - ward. E - ter - nal life He gains us.  
priest - ly flock. Our Shep - herd has re - claimed us.

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## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**People:** 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.



# Agnus Dei

## “O Lamb of God, You Take Away”

Andrew Jones



1 O Lamb of God, You take a - way Each  
2 For Sa - tan prowls with schemes and scams— He



bur - den and af - flic - tion. We need Your mer - cy  
seeks our con - dem - na - tion. But You pur - sue Your



ev - 'ry day; Save us from sin's con - vic - tion.  
blood - bought lambs, And home us in sal - va - tion.

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## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

**Special Organ Music (8:00)**

“This Joyful Eastertide”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

**Hymn**

“This Joyful Eastertide”

*LSB 482*

## General Communion Blessing

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have led us to the green pastures and still waters of this Meal, and we pray that You would continue to lead us on the paths of righteousness, devoted wholly to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

**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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

*LSB 477*



## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

"Toccata Brevis"

Daniel Gawthorp



Make a joyful noise  
unto God, all ye lands.

Psalm 66:1, KJV

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**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP**  
**ORGANIST**  
**HANDBELL DIRECTOR**  
**FLUTE**  
**CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**  
**ELDERS**  
**LECTORS**  
**COMMUNION SERVER**  
**ALTAR GUILD**

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder  
Michael Zehnder  
Stephanie Roettjer  
Lillie Hendricks  
Youth Praise Team  
4 p.m. Don Loptien; 8 a.m. Jim Wert; 10:30 a.m. Bob Seible  
4 p.m. Anita Baresel; 8 a.m. Annaliese Tunheim; 10:30 a.m. Jenna Lawrenz  
4:00 p.m. Anita Baresel; 10:30 a.m. TBD  
Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde