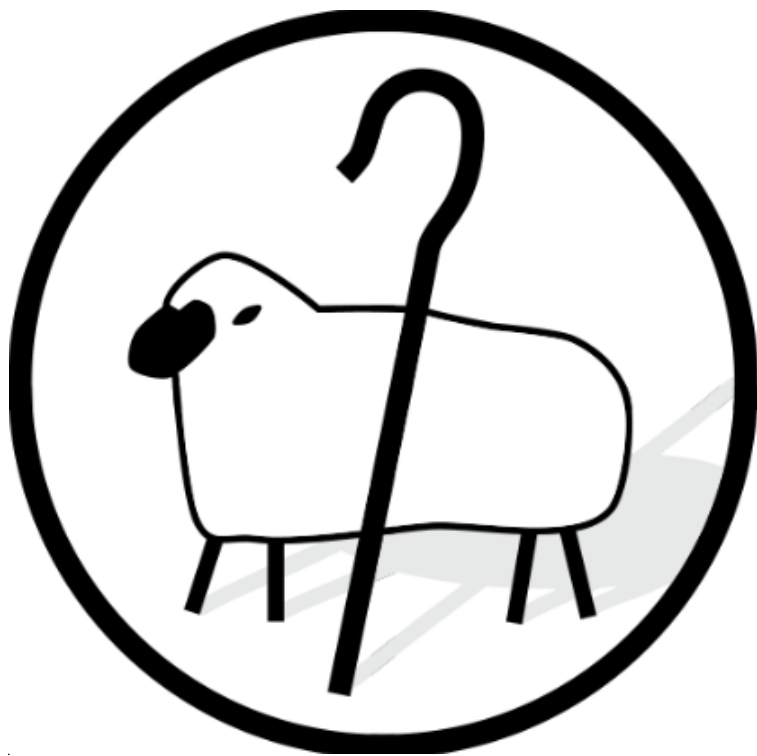


\_\_\_\_\_Fourth Sunday of Easter\_\_\_\_\_

## Connected to the Shepherd



***If you choose to take a hard-copy bulletin:***  
*please either take it with you or dispose of it after the service. They will not be re-used. Thank you!*

April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

— MINISTRIES —

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE

## Connected to the Shepherd

*This Easter season, as we look at God's Word in the Easter lessons, we will find a connection that cannot be broken. Through the Word of God we are connected to the Good Shepherd.*

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### HYMN

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb – **CW 432**

### INVOCATION

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

**C: And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven you all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♪ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.**

***Blessed are they who take refuge in him.***

***Your Word, O Lord is eternal;***

***it stands firm in the heavens.***

***Your faithfulness continues forever.***

***Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.***

***Blessed are they who take refuge in him.***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

## ECC 3k & 4k HANDBELLS & SONG

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me, this I know For the Bible tells me so Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak, but He is strong! Yes, Jesus loves me (3x) The Bible tells me so!*

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:23-33

*The Apostles pray for boldness*

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. <sup>27</sup> Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'" <sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. <sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23

*We rejoice in our Shepherd*

### *Refrain*



The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

### *Psalm tone*



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.

### *Refrain*

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.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### *Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1-2

*We are children of God*

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

**C: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.** (*John 10:14*)

## GOSPEL & SERMON TEXT

John 10:11-18

*Jesus is the Good Shepherd*

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The 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. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I 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. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No 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."

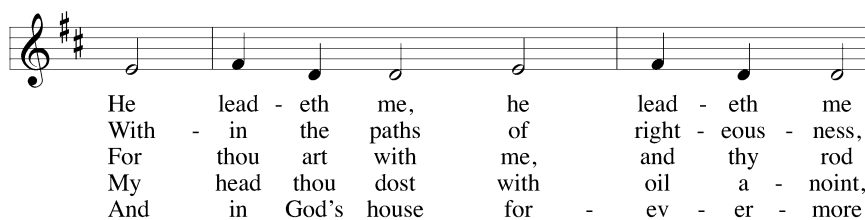
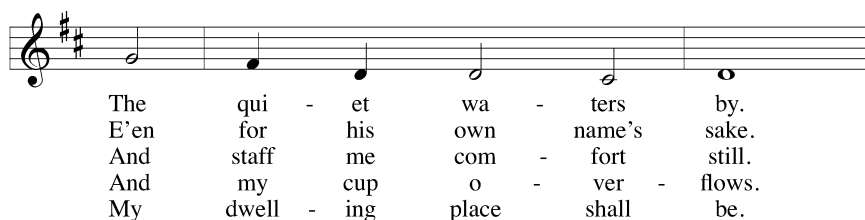
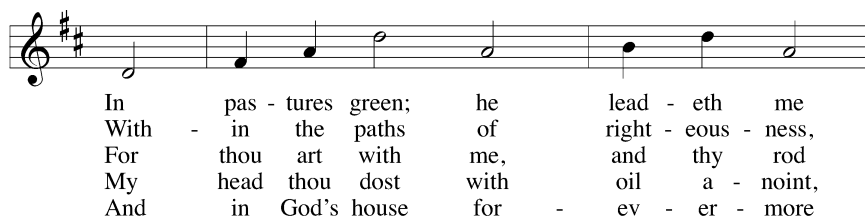
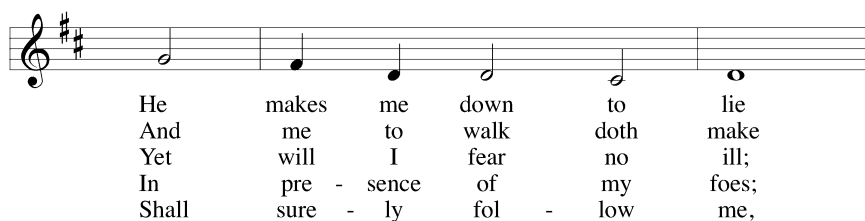
**C: ♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd – **CWS 766**



1	The	Lord's	my	Shep -	herd;	I'll	not	want.
2	My	soul	he	doth	re -	store	a -	gain
3	Yea,	though	I	walk	in	death's	dark	vale,
4	My	ta -	ble	thou	hast	fur -	nish -	ed
5	Good	-	ness	and	mer -	cy,	all	my
							life,	



*The well-known themes of Psalm 23 are set to the popular tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR.*

Text: *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1650

Tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR (86 86 86) J. L. Macbeth Bain, c. 1840–1925, adapt.

## SERMON

Pastor Kenneth Frey

### *What Makes the Good Shepherd Good?*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep – **CW 436**

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and

comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## HYMN

Shepherd of Tender Youth – **CW 515 v. 1 & 5**

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## Worship Notes

Presiding Minister: Kenneth Frey  
Organist: Nancy Zander

### Service Teams:

8:00 a.m.	R. Hoh (Head Usher), G. Petermann, B. Hopfensperger, T. Luehring, C./M. Krueger
10:30 a.m.	D. Paulson, (Head Usher), J./P. Cherney, J. Immel, E. Dvorak, M. Schluter, K./M./S. Paulson, M./K./C. Runkel
6:00 p.m.	P. Abitz (Head Usher), J. Volhard, D./V. Sheldon, J./S. Dunsirn, P. Tiedt