



4th Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023

Messiah Lutheran Church

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WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you have joined us and we pray that your time with us brings joy to your heart and soul. The service is printed for you in this worship folder or on the screens in front. Musical notes and other resources can be found in the blue hymnals and bibles available as you enter the worship area.

We invite you to connect with us by signing our online guestbook available at messiahgb.org.

Our restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you leave the worship area.

Parents, we encourage you to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, ushers, etc. If your child grows restless, we invite you to step out of the worship area into our cry room, near the restrooms. Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To our members, the presence of children is a gift from God and a sign of a growing congregation. Greet parents of young children with a smile!

If you have any questions regarding our worship services, Bible classes and Sunday School or Connect Groups, please speak with our pastor. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

He Lives! To Be My Good Shepherd

Every culture has the concept of an ideal citizen, someone who typifies its values. For much of the United States' history, the ideal citizen was the American farmer.

For the people of Israel, the farmer wasn't their ideal citizen. It was the shepherd. Sheep were an invaluable source of clothing and food, and their survival was dependent on their shepherd. You see why Jesus chose the shepherd to illustrate how he cares for us. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from that roaring lion, Satan. Jesus is leading us into the green pasture of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed the Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that he lives to be our Good Shepherd.

551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
 2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
 3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
 4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
 5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
 take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at
 life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
 joy will fol - low on till the work of
 sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
 your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
 feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
 grace is done, there to live with you.
 ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Baptism (Sun 10:15)

M: 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

M: 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.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven 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.

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

**C: (sung) 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

M: 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 the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

Be Seated

Children's Anthem

St Paul 7th & 8th

First Lesson

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Psalm 23



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je -
2 When I walk through the shades of death, his
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at -

ho - vah is his name; in pas - tures fresh he
pres - ence is my stay; one word of his sup -
tend me all my days; oh, may his house be

makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
my a - bode and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - d'ring spir - it back when
His hand, in sight of all my foes, will
There would I find a set - tled rest while



I for - sake his ways and leads me, for his
 still my ta - ble spread; my cup with bless - ings
 oth - ers go and come, no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 o - ver - flows; his oil a - noints my head.
 or a guest but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker
 Text and tune: Public domain

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
 Alleluia.

C: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
 that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Stand

Gospel

John 10:1–10

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

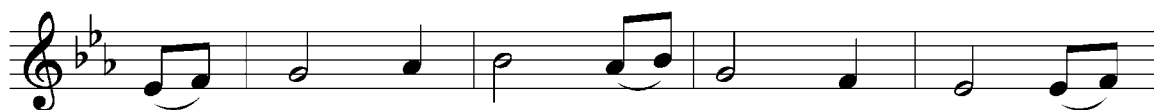
M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Children's Sermon

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
 you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 You spread a table in my sight,
a banquet here bestowing;
your oil of welcome, my delight;
my cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
Tune: Irish, 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Lesson

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But 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. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When 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. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Sermon

Apostle's 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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we gather in your house today.

C: Thank you for feeding us in the green pastures of your Word.

M: For leading us beside the still waters of forgiveness, and for your goodness
and mercy which follows us all the days of our lives,

C: We give you thanks and praise.

M: Lord Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd. Continue to guide us on the path
that leads to eternal life.

C: Correct us with your Word when we stray.

M: Send the Holy Spirit to calm our frantic hearts, soothe our consciences and renew our zeal for you.

C: Keep us connected to your voice – the Word.

M: Even when the world attacks us and tempts us to wander away, may we always listen to you.

C: Strengthen our faith in you.

M: Dear Lord, we thank you for your messengers who keep us connected to your Word. We thank you for all pastors everywhere and ask you to build them up.

M: May they continue to share the good news of your Word that causes our cup to overflow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: O Lord, you give us the great picture of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. May we always remember how he laid down his life for us as we live our lives for him. In the name of your Son we join in praying -

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.**

Be Seated

804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, e - ven now the

heart I am, for my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

knows my need and well pro - vides me, loves me ev - 'ry
in - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; when I thirst, he
by his an - gel host at - tend - ed, he shall fold me

day the same, e - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to his breast, there with - in his arms to rest.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782
Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: (sung) Amen.

Blessing

M: 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: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Be Seated

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