



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

April 25, 2021, Fourth Sunday of Easter

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



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The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd’s willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Prelude

Joanne Richards

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, so please make sure you have a Communion packet when you arrive. Please join us as we sing under our masks. Thank you for practicing social distancing and masking.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act to what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

L: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God’s love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God’s people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

Red Worship Book 385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away; let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

L: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Special Music

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

Christie Dunkley and Diane Ausmus

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Psalm 23

L: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not be in want.

L: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

C: and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O LORD,

C: and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

L: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

C: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Sermon “When You Have A Good Shepherd” John 10:11-18 Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace mercy and peace to you from our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Professor Rolf Jacobson tells a story about a young man his father knew who would show sheep at the county fair and help those with judging. While he was judging, someone went to his house and stole his sheep. He could not imagine who would do this, yet he had a suspicion and went to another county's fair. The next week low and behold, in the strange barn, one of the sheep started crying and the man knew it was his sheep.

Rolf's dad, who was a Pastor, said, "You cannot recognize your sheep." He said, "Most definitely, I know my sheep."

A question that we all have this Good Shepherd Sunday is this; what does it mean to have a God, a good God, as your shepherd? God had shepherds in the Old Testament and they did not lead his people, so God fired them and said, "I will be there shepherd." He did continue to shepherd. King David prayed and sang in his Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." This Psalm being one of the most comforting and peaceful psalms written. He knew that God cared for him, tended, and cared for him in the good and the bad. Enter Jesus Christ, the Messiah, whom God sent to save and protect, now the good shepherd. One that knows our name.

Previous to our reading in the Gospel of John is very important to our reading today, because not only is Jesus continuing to speak to us, he is talking and showing how he is a good shepherd to the man born blind. John 9 begins as healing of a man that is blind as he is just minding his own business, and someone asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents that he is blind?" Jesus said neither, and spat on the ground, made a mud and spread it on the man's eyes. He was to wash, and it worked the man born blind could now see. This is where it gets complicated. Everyone asked him how it happened, not that he could see necessarily, they wanted to know if Jesus healed on the Sabbath, what was up, even asked his parents what was going on, to see it if was true. Imagine, they were going to kick them out of their community and the synagogue, they said go talk to our son. They did. For the second time they went to the man who could now see. They have another discussion, and he kicked out of the synagogue for becoming his disciple. Jesus heard that he heard about his troubles, and went to find the blind man. Seeking him out. The blind man believed before he even knew Jesus name, and Jesus sought him out. "Lord I believe he told him.

Jesus continues and tells the previous blind man, the disciples, everyone that who he is to each of them. He tells them, I am the gate and the door for you I will protect you. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd will not let anything happen to you, but will lay down his life for the sheep. He does not leave it to the hired hand that will run away when something happens and things get scary or frightful.

"I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10: 14. Jesus Christ on God's command, the Good Shepherd, tells them all, the blind man, disciples and us that he is our good shepherd, and seeks us out. He hears our troubles and heartaches, he knows our grief's and sorrows, and he is looking for us to turn to him. He knows our name. In your places of isolation, he is there as he seeks for you an abundant life and an eternal life. Prior to dying on the cross, he was a good shepherd who was looking and protecting his sheep, his flock, and his beloved.

He also adds in John 10:16, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them in also and they will listen to my voice, so there will be one shepherd and one flock." Imagine this beautiful image of all people walking together, handing our love and shepherding each other, treated equally, fashioning ourselves around the one that loves, accepts and cares for all.

I heard a news reporter last week share that we have all been living in "grief and sorrow." I agree. I was shocked that he said this, and yet really we have all been there lately. Hear the Good shepherd, your God say that I am with you. I will never leave you. In life and in death, in joys and in sorrows, in everything that we do, he is watching over us and granting us grace and peace. He knows your name. He calls you by your name. The Good shepherd will never leave your side. That is not what a shepherd does.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Amen.

Hymn

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Red Worship Book 502

1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

- 2 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *(A brief silence.)*

L: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Hymn “Come and Fill Our Hearts” (sing 3 times)

Red Worship Book 528

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia

Prayer after Communion

L: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Blessing

L: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Hymn “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Red Worship Book 789

- 1** Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
- 2** We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
- 3** You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
- 4** Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



the worship is ended ... let the service begin...

The Noisy offering this month is for Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.

Next Week’s Readings and Psalm

First Reading

[Acts 8:26-40](#)

Second Reading

[1 John 4:7-21](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 22:25-31](#)

Gospel

[John 15:1-8](#)

One change as we are back in person is that we will not be sending out bulletins in the mail, unless you would like one sent. It is your choice of online through the church directory, web page, in the mail, or pick it up on Sunday is your choice. Please let us know what your desire is. We are looking to save paper and printing for those who can, yet we will need your assistance to get the “Good News” and the news to you as is best for you ☺

I would like to get my bulletin by Church directory. My email is _____

I would like to receive this through the US Postal Service _____

I will receive my bulletin on Sunday Morning at Worship _____

I will check out the church Website to receive the bulletin _____

I have a question about this change _____

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