



Christ as the Good Shepherd, Lucas Cranach, ca. 1540, Erfurt

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church
April 25, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 25, 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

April 25: Mark, Evangelist

Though Mark himself was not an apostle, it is likely that he was a member of one of the early Christian communities. It is possible that he is the John Mark of Acts 12 whose mother owned the house where the apostles gathered. The gospel attributed to him is brief and direct. It is considered by many to be the earliest gospel. Tradition has it that Mark went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, became the first bishop there, and was martyred.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, harpsichord

*Sarabande, Allemande (from Partita in D Minor, BWV 104)
Christoph Graupner (1683-1759)*

Christoph Graupner was a German Baroque composer who was an almost direct contemporary of J. S. Bach. He was unjustly forgotten after his death, mostly remembered for being Leipzig's choice to be Kantor before the job was offered to Bach. In recent years, he has been the subject of a revival in both research and performance interest from scholars and performers, including Dove's organist Kevin Seal, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Graupner's cantatas. Today we hear two movements from one of Graupner's Harpsichord Partitas, a collection of short pieces in D minor based on different Baroque dances. The Sarabande is a slow, stately dance in triple time with the accent on the second beat. The Allemande is a moderately fast dance in duple meter.



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

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.

A reading from Acts.

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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 23

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 23:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

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¹The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall | fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. REFRAIN

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I John 3:16-24

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.

A reading from First John.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

The assembly sings the acclamation before and after the verse of the day.



Cantor: Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.*
I know my own and my | own know me. (John 10:14)

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

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.

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



- 1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us bring prayers to our God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of our salvation, you desire to shepherd all people, but there are many who do not know your voice. We pray that the church, bringing glad news to the world, may gather those other sheep into the fold of your loving embrace. Strengthen the church throughout the world in its mission to witness to your expansive love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding Shepherd, you laid down your life for us, and we are to believe and love one another. Help us to love you truly and to show that love with actions that make us a blessing as we reach out to those around us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherd of Life, in your hand is the life of all creation, and you have made us partners in the role of caring for it. However, our acceptance of that responsibility has often been inadequate. Help us to commit ourselves to personal lifestyles that contribute to the health of the environment. Lead policy makers to find solutions to environmental problems that may be accepted by all parties involved.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hope, 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.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving Shepherd, you are our constant companion, and there is no need that you cannot fulfill. You are ever present whether in our praise or in the valley of human suffering. Where pain is severe, give comfort; when burdens are heavy, give an arm to lean on; when depression and loneliness strikes, touch with eternal joy. Reassure with your promise of security in your nearness, and that you will never let us go.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Shepherd, with hearts uplifted we acknowledge yours as the only name under heaven given to us by which we must be saved. Lead us in paths of truth and grace as you hold us in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember those who have died in you, especially the evangelist Mark. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

MEDITATION

Alleluia Bell Choir

Sheep May Safely Graze
J.S. Bach (1685-1750); arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

On this Sunday of rich imagery of God as our protective shepherd, our anthem conveys the serenity and security of God's sheep. Originally written as a soprano solo in Bach's Cantata No. 208, the pastoral tune has been transcribed for various combinations of voices and instruments.

COMMISSION

Concluding announcements and ministry opportunities.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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Toccata Terza
Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

Frescobaldi was an Italian composer and keyboardist, and one of the most influential composers of his time. This keyboard toccata, performed on Dove of Peace's harpsichord, features all the hallmarks of his style, including dramatic harmonic shifts, imitative passages, and virtuosic inventiveness.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister
John Hoelter, Lector
Eric Holtan, Cantor
Kevin Seal, Organist