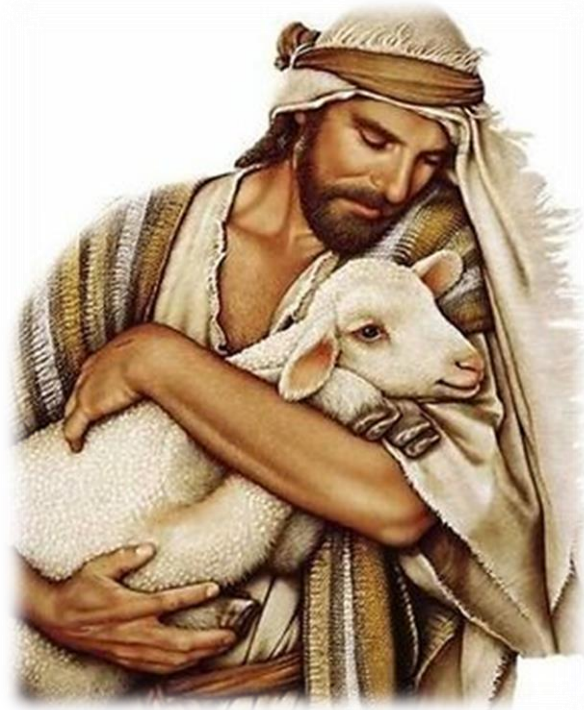


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Good Shepherd Sunday)
A Service of the Word
*May 3, 2020**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
85 E. Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA

United in Christ,
We are called to love and serve.

(*Service may be viewed on Zion's Restricted YouTube or
Zion's Website (zionhempfield.net))

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Good Shepherd Sunday)
A Service of the Word
May 3, 2020

(ELW refers to the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Book)

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S SERVICE

P: In the name of Christ, welcome to worship on the Fourth Sunday of Easter – a Sunday also referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. In recognition of today, I have brought with me my little flock of sheep. Let me introduce them to you. These little fellows are always in my office ... reminding me of my need to follow Jesus in all that I do. You're welcome to come visit them anytime! Really!!

PRELUDE

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

E. L. Diemer

† **THE GATHERING** †

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Dearest God, our Lord and Savior and Good Shepherd, the one who creates the fold, who goes out to seek the lost sheep, and who draws us, your flock, together. We confess that we have strayed like sheep and though you have brought us to your fold, we have not always followed in your steps. We may have begun to live the good life, but too often we turn back to our old sinful lives. We acknowledge the example Christ has set for us, but too rarely have we accepted the promised gifts of the Spirit to be like you. Forgive our wandering ways and grant us forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered on our behalf. Amen.

Brief silence.

Brothers and Sister in Christ, hear the Good News! Jesus Christ carried our sins to the cross. By his wounds we are healed. Believe the Good News! In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

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.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

GREETING

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Good Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, so we may walk in certainty, security, and joy. We pray this day through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

† **THE WORD** †

God speaks to us in Scriptures read, sung, and preached.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A: A reading from Act 2.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together

and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A READING OF PSALM 23

A:



The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

A: A reading from 1 Peter.

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Caruana

P: Today’s sermon begins with a story you may have heard before, but it’s definitely worth repeating. If by chance you have heard it before, try to listen to it as though you’ve never heard it before. Let its words penetrate your inner being ... your soul.

.....

Two men were called on to recite the 23rd Psalm. One was an orator trained in speech technique and drama. He presented the psalm in a powerful way. When he finished, the audience cheered and asked for an encore so they might hear his wonderful voice again. The other man proclaimed the same words – “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want ...” but when he finished, not a sound came from the audience. Instead, people sat quietly with a deep sense of devotion and prayer.

Then the first man stood up and said, “I have a confession to make. The difference between what you just heard from my friend and what you heard from me is this: I know the Psalm, but my friend knows the Shepherd.”

John uses many images in his Gospel, but one of my favorite ones is Jesus as a shepherd. Like a shepherd, Jesus is concerned with the welfare and the care of his sheep. He loves his sheep and calls himself the *Good Shepherd*. He didn't call himself King Jesus ... or President Jesus or Commissioner Jesus ... or Mayor Jesus ... Doctor Jesus ... Reverend Jesus Deacon Jesus ... or Chairman Jesus. He called himself a shepherd ... a servant ... a caretaker ... a watchman ... a provider ... a good shepherd. That's what really stands out in my mind. We're his people and the sheep of his pasture ... Jesus is our shepherd. We depend on him for everything. And just as a shepherd watches over his sheep, so does God watch over each one of us ... his beloved children ... and that makes me feel really great. And I hope it does that for you also.

Two caretakers are mentioned in this gospel story: The Good Shepherd and the hired hand. The hired hand had no connection or relationship with the sheep. Frankly, he didn't care about them at all. If a sheep was attacked by a wolf or lost ... oh, well ... so what!

Then there's the good shepherd. Now he has a special relationship with his flock. They were like valued pets. There wasn't anything the good shepherd didn't know about his sheep. To the untrained eye, all the sheep looked the same, but to the good shepherd everyone could be identified because of specific markings or peculiar traits. The good shepherd would notice things about his sheep: How the feet on some were turned in a little; how some walked kind of sideways; how one had a patch of wool off its back; how another one had a black mark below its eye; or how one had a small piece torn out of its ear. The shepherd knew each by name. These weren't just sheep; they were Patch, Limpy, Blackie, Tag, Nosey ... just to name a few. By day and night, the shepherd was always there for them ... he lived among them. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came from heaven to earth to be close to his sheep. That's why he's the Good Shepherd. He actually became a sheep by

taking on our nature and lived life just like us ... with one exception: he was without sin.

A cemetery has a tombstone that bears this epitaph: *Pause stranger. Where you pass me by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be, so prepare for death and follow me.* An unknown passerby scratched the following reply underneath: *To follow you I'm not content, until I know which way you went!*

In a few minutes we'll be singing a very familiar hymn that begins with the words "Savior, like a shepherd lead us." You see, shepherds go before their flock; they lead their flock, never asking them to do anything they wouldn't do first ... and the sheep follow because they know the shepherd's voice and they trust the shepherd.

A man in Australia was arrested and charged with stealing a sheep. But he vigorously protested that it was one of his own that had been missing for many days. When the case went to court, the judge didn't know how to decide the matter. Finally, he asked that the sheep be brought into the courtroom. Then he ordered the plaintiff to step outside and call the animal. The sheep made no response except to raise its head and look frightened. Then the judge instructed the defendant to go to the courtyard and call the sheep. When the accused man began to make his distinctive call, the sheep ran toward the door and his voice. It was obvious the sheep recognized the familiar voice of his master. "The sheep knows him," said the judge. "Case dismissed!"

Today's sermon hymn continues with these words: *"Much we need your tender care; in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare."*

Jesus describes a sheep fold (or pen) in today's gospel story. He says it has only one door. When the sheep returned to the fold at night after a day of grazing, the shepherd stood in the doorway and inspected each one with tender care as it entered. If a sheep was scratched or wounded by thorns, the shepherd would anoint it with oil to facilitate healing. If they were thirsty, he gave them water. After all had been counted and brought into the pen, the shepherd would lay across the doorway so no intruder could enter. The shepherd became the door. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who protects and sustains the life of his sheep ... that's you and me. He's our protector and lays down his life for us.

When Jesus laid down his life for his sheep, he saved us from sin and death. But if the story ended there, we'd have a problem. If a flock of sheep lost their shepherd because he laid down his life to save them from danger, they would be shepherd-

less. And even if no dangers presented themselves, soon they would wander off and get lost. The death of a shepherd would then be in vain.

But the story doesn't end with a dead shepherd and scattered sheep. Instead, we're told *"No man takes [my life] from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this commandment from my Father."*

Under the Old Testament law, the sheep died for the shepherd, but now the Good Shepherd dies for the sheep ... for you and me.

In the book *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, Eric Butterworth tell the story of a college professor who had his sociology class go into the Baltimore slums to collect case histories of 200 young boys. The students were asked to write an evaluation of each boy's future. In every case the students wrote, "He hasn't got a chance."

Twenty-five years later another sociology professor came across this earlier study. He had his students do follow up on the same 200 boy who were now grown men. With the exception of 20 who had moved away or died, the students learned that 176 of the remaining 180 had achieved more than ordinary success as lawyers, doctors, and businessmen. The professor was astounded and decided to pursue the situation. Fortunately, all the men were in the area and he was able to ask each one, "How do you account for your success?" In every case the reply was, "There was a teacher."

The teacher was still alive, so he sought her out and asked the old, but still alert lady, what magic formula she had used to pull these boys out of the slums into successful achievement. The teacher's eyes sparkled, and her lips broke into a gentle smile. "It's really quite simple, she said. "I loved those boys."

Their success was based on the love of a teacher. Our success, as followers of Jesus, is based on the love of a shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for us. He loved us enough that our sinfulness became his burden. He loved us enough that his perfect rightness became ours. He loved us enough to suffer on the cross for us ... to save us from eternal death ... to prepare us to meet his Father. And he will keep us safe in the sheepfold if we're smart sheep and follow the Good Shepherd.

On this special day of remembering the love of a special shepherd, I say, "Thank you, Jesus. Amen."

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 as; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.

We are you; 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.

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.

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.

NICENE CREED

P: We profess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS

A: Hear us, Lord, as we lift up to you our prayers for others and for ourselves.

O God, our loving Shepherd, you come to us with the strength and love of a father, and the tender mercies, patience and protection of a loving mother. We see you in the very living of each new day, and yet we so often fail to praise you or to offer our burdens to you.

We pray for those in need – those who hunger or are homeless. We pray for those in pain—the abused, brokenhearted and lonely. We pray for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, especially those on Zion’s Prayer List and for those who grieve. We pray for the life of our community of faith and all those who put their trust in you for all their todays and all their tomorrows. We pray that your loving- kindness to the world would be offered through our hands, our words, our deeds, and our hearts.

Free us, Lord, from the many challenges we face so we may sing your praises in the work of our everyday lives. In those comings and goings of our simple and complicated living, make us instruments of your peace and grace in weary days with weary people.

Good Shepherd, teach us to follow you, to care for all that are close to us, to protect those who are threatened, to welcome those who are rejected, to forgive those who are burdened by guilt, to share with those who have little or nothing, and to take the time to really know one another and love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd, teach us to follow you, to spread compassion to those who are far away, to speak for those who are voiceless, to defend those who are oppressed and abused, to make peace for those who suffer violence, and to take the time to recognize our connectedness and your unending love for your flock.

Accept these prayers that we offer now in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who taught us to pray together saying ...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord is My Shepherd

D. Allen (Women's Duet)

† **THE SENDING** †

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Good Shepherd, we rejoice in the bounteous provisions you provide for us when our wants and needs seem to overwhelm us. We thank you for the renewal of life and strength you provide during times of struggle and weariness, even when the shadow of death falls on us or those we love as we battle the ravages brought on by the spread of the coronavirus.

We thank you for the comfort and hope you provide when the darkness of adversity closes us in, yet your light of surprises fills our cup to overflowing and gives us glimmers of hope. We thank you for your goodness and unfailing love as you provide renewed energy to those on the front lines against an enemy we cannot see but are able to witness its effects ... particularly among the elderly.

We thank you for the kindnesses that are extended by the members of your flock who reach out to others in practical and helpful ways. Let goodness continue to flourish as we look to you for guidance and answers to our prayers. Help us to not only praise you for all you do for us, but to turn to you with total trust in our times of need ... knowing that all things are possible through faith in you.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

P: And now may Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep us united in one body. May the blessing of almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

P: Live in peace while serving the Lord your God. Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Brother James' Air

S. Wright

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Joe Adams | Thelma Pearson | Judie Ingersoll |
| Lucy Davis | Bill Grove | Mary Grzybowski |
| Kay Crawford | Holly Hoover | Betty Stoner |
| Don Heartter | Janet & Harry Musselman | |
| Ron Sahn (Friend of Dave Wise) | | |
| Wilson Pipkin (Father of Wilson Pipkin) | | |
| Jessica Graham (Granddaughter of Janet & Harry Musselman) | | |
| Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise) | | |
| Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove) | | |

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Charlotte & George Potts | Marlin Zimmerman | Arlene Miller |
| Deb McCartney | Bette Geibel | Jennifer Thompson |
| Ted Symonds & Family | | |
| Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise) | | |
| Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood) | | |
| Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer) | | |

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Christopher Wright | Jonathan Hoover |
| Thom Whitesel | Ryan Stitzel |
| Doug Kautter | Justin Gorlaski |
| Chris Andrew | Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis) |

Note: Please contact Anne Rankin by email (adminzelc@comcast.net) or phone (717-945-4585) if anyone should be added or deleted from Zion's Prayer List.



Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.