

CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠ May 3, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the fourth Sunday of Easter.

We welcome you and all who desire to hear God's Word, but are unable to attend worship at this time.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call the pastors at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our church websites for more information.
- *Please don't forget your offering. Your congregation depends on you for financial support so that we can feed the hungry, teach our Sunday School classes, provide music for the choir, pay the electric bill, buy paper for the Sunday bulletin, and purchase the coffee you love to drink on Sunday morning. Mail in your offering or give on-line.*

Remember, our Lord is risen and is with us now and always.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN LBW#481 “SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US”

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name
and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your
voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast
prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. **Amen.**

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called
the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the
way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us
beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a
feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be

signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

PSALM 23 Musical arrangement used today © 2006 Thomas I. Dressler. All rights reserved. Copying prohibited.

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside 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.**

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.**

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹"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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Vivian Brown*

THE SERMON *Pr. Mark E. Swanson*

NICENE CREED

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 begotten 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE *A sign of peace is shown by bowing.*

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Hear our prayer."*

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, we thank you for our bishops, pastors, teachers, and all who share the Gospel message of Christ. Inspire them by your Spirit to boldly continue their work in these trying times. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, we praise you for all who till the soil and work the seas, everyone who brings food to our tables. Give them strength as they labor for the sake of the millions who cry out in hunger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Lead the nations of the world to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the fruits of abundance you desire for the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comforting God, you tenderly carry us in your loving arms. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys of this life, overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering (*especially* Nancy and her granddaughter giving birth this weekend). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you desire justice for your broken world. As you reached out to the stranger and foreigner, the least and the lost, move us to live as you lived, bearing the face of Jesus to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, your beloved saints have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them through the gate into eternal life. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness to your shepherding love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he promised.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN “THE GOOD, GOOD SHEPHERD”

Words and music by Jay Beech

*He’s the good, good shepherd, he calls his own sheep by name.
Yeah, He’s the good, good shepherd, he calls his own sheep by name.
He leads them out to pasture, then he leads them back home again.*

✘ ✘ ✘

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LEADING WORSHIP

PRESIDING

Pr. Laura Csellak and Pr. Mark Swanson

VIDEOGRAPHER

Mr. Gary Klinger

THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR, WE REMEMBER...

Monday, May 4: MONICA, MOTHER OF AUGUSTINE, DIED 387

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Friday, May 8: JULIAN OF NORWICH, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED C.1416

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Saturday, May 9: NICOLAUS LUDWIG VON ZINZENDORF, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, HYMNWRITER, DIED 1760

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.