

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 25, 2021



The Fourth Sunday of Easter is informally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his own and they know him. The shepherd, as opposed to the hired hand, will go to any length necessary to save his sheep. This is exactly what Jesus did when he died on the cross for our sake. Salvation comes from one way only, through Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God’s calling and we extend Christ’s hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God’s Word, partake in the Lord’s Supper, and give thanks to God in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord’s Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MUSICAL PRELUDE - MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING TWO

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*Stand, Spoken*)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN “ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME” LBW #328

**All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.**

**O seed of Israel’s chosen race Now ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.**

**Sinners whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.**

KYRIE (*Sung*)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**
P: 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.**
P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**
P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung*)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Sung*)

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

FIRST READING — ACTS 4:1-12 (*Sit*)

¹And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

SECOND READING — 1 JOHN 3:16-24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA VERSE (*Stand, Sung*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES – JOHN 10:11-18 (*Sung*)

P: The Holy Gospel from St. John chapter 10. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE (*Sit*)

HYMN “SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US” LBW # 481 (*Stand*)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

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 worshipped 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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE PEACE (*Spoken*)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING HYMN (*Sung*)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father / **C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Sung*)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (*Sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING, INSTITUTION , LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night...Do this in remembrance of me. **All: Our Father, who art in heaven...**

AGNUS DEI (*Sung*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT (*Sit*)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Stand, Sung*)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENECTION

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

C: Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN: "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING!" LBW #144

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring: Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew his way;

Let all the world rejoice and say: Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,

And sing with hearts uplifted high: Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord,

The life laid down, the life restored: Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia!

P: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE — MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL