

Family Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2020

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

L: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

L: Let us make our confession to God. **Almighty, God, merciful Father, I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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; my cup overflows.

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

HYMN [All People That on Earth Do Dwell](#) (LBW #245, w/lyrics)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Living God, your Son cares for your people as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Grant that we may hear and recognize his voice, and, following him, be brought safely through every trial and temptation until we enter into the green pastures of your heavenly kingdom; **through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

GOSPEL VERSE (Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can)

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

GOSPEL READING

L: The Holy Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 10:1-18

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

MESSAGE

HYMN [The King of Love My Shepherd Is](#) (With Lyrics)

THE 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

EASTER OFFERING *(Spoken; LBW #480, st. 1, 3)*

L: Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still! Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

R: Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep; And should I e'er forget your way, restore your wandering sheep.

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

THE 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.

AARONIC BLESSING *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.

L: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you

L: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

R: And give you peace. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

[Leaning on the Everlasting Arms](#) *(LBW #559; Alan Jackson, with Lyrics)*

Extra

[Parable of the Good Shepherd](#) *(Movie)*

[Parable of the Good Shepherd](#) *(Children)*

EASTER READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 10:1-10

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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."

PRAYERS

- L: Let us pray. Father, you are the Shepherd of Israel and you sent your Son to be the Good Shepherd who will lead us home. Help us always to listen for his voice and follow him in faithful obedience. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: In the midst of great change, O God, you do not change but remain holy and just forever. As you come among us in righteousness and truth, remember also, we pray, your mercy and the blood of Jesus which covers all our sins. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Grant us, O God, the ministry of your Holy Spirit in our hearts, and in the Body of Christ, that we may be a people devoted to the apostolic teaching in the Bible, prayerful living at home and at church, and charitable giving as an exercise of our love for you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Bless the ministry of the Truetlen House and it's director Kristen Wert and all the residents as they shelter together. Keep their funding streams strong and their relationships healthy. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for Helen Zeigler and Audrey Zipperer who are cut off from their families because of Covid-19. Give them courage to face these lonely days and provide for all their daily needs. Bless the nurses and staff who care for them and keep all our elder care homes healthy and virus free. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for family and friends of the Halls, Aunt Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems and Great Aunt Katherine who has contracted the Coronavirus, and friend Izzy Wilkins, who recently had a tumor removed from her stomach; protect, heal and comfort them and their families. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Lord, in this present time when schools are closed, the pressures of family life can be difficult for many. Protect children whose lives are in danger and help overwhelmed parents find the rest and resources they need to parent well. Lord, in your mercy, **HOP.**
- L: Hear our prayers for those who place themselves in harms way to care for others: for all doctors, nurses and medical personnel, for police officers, jailers, firefighters and soldiers. As they carry out their duties to do good, keep them as the apple of your eye. Lord, in your mercy, **HOP.**
- L: Hear our prayers for the needs of others: Father, be with those who are sick or dying, especially those who are alone in their suffering. Give courage and patience to all who are anxious and overwhelmed by the current pandemic. Provide daily bread for all those who have lost employment. Give your holy help to: Judi, Jason, Kelly, Tim, Jackie, Tanis, Dawn, Marcus, and Carroll. Grant your consolation to Betty Weathers and Mary Dasher, to Dot Zipperer and the family of Rosemary Atkinson, to Sandy Smith and the family of Laura Brown, to Karen Hall and the family of Tim Uzupan, and to Renea Arnsdorff. Lord, in your mercy, **HOP.**
- L: Merciful and gracious God, hear our prayers, grant us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for May 3, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.3)

Katherine who is over 90 years old has the Coronavirus (Great Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.3)

Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls; 5.3)

Judi Zipperer, recovering at home from a heart procedure (4.26)

Jason Patterson (friend of S. Everett; 4.19)

Family of Deb Lowe: a granddaughter (Kelly) may have the virus. (4.19)

Betty Weathers (sister of Mary Dasher): whose daughter Tina died this past week. (4.19)

Timothy, Jackie, and Tanis Dasher: quarantined at home, Tim having tested positive for the Coronavirus. (4.12)

Dawn Cavanah: broken leg (3.12.2020)

Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z; 3.5.2020)

Carroll Zittrouer: surgery (Dorothy Zipperer Son-In-Law; 3.10.2020)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Family of Tim Uzupan (cousin of Karen Hall; 3.4.2020)

Renea Arnsdorff, comfort in the loss of her mother and her husband (3.1.2020)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton

Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Ryland Hampton, Michael

Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Providential Pasture

Reflections on the Reformers

[Pastor Mark Ryman](#) - February 11, 2020



[Psalm 23:1–6](#)

From the Reformer

This psalm is neither intermingled with prayers, nor does it complain of miseries for the purpose of obtaining relief; but it contains simply a thanksgiving, from which it appears that it was composed when David had obtained peaceable possession of the kingdom, and lived in prosperity, and in the enjoyment of all he could desire. That he might not, therefore, in the time of his great prosperity, be like worldly men, who, when they seem to themselves to be fortunate, bury God in forgetfulness, and luxuriously plunge themselves into their pleasures, he delights himself in God, the author of all the blessings which he enjoyed. And he not only acknowledges that the state of tranquility in which he now lives, and his exemption from all inconveniences and troubles, is owing to the goodness of God; but he also trusts that through his providence he will continue happy even to the close of his life, and for this end that he may employ himself in his pure worship.

—John Calvin, *Commentary on the Psalms*

Pulling It Together

It made no difference to David the condition in which he found himself. Certainly he wished for comfort and gave God thanks for ease. Yet he seems to have learned to give God thanks regardless. With Paul, he could say that he had learned to be content in whatever state he found himself ([Phil 4:11](#)). God had so tempered his character that he could lie down in providential pastures; whether they were green or brown, God was there. If enemies were present, so was the Good Shepherd. If death was near, so was the Lord of eternity and so, his cup ran over with the blessing of God's presence.

The Good Shepherd

Find the 33 bold words from John 10:1-5, 7, 9, 11 (ESV)

F M G V O I C E R W N E U L B
L D A R W A M A O O R W L E E
E X T E E A F N L U B H O A F
E I E H O M K D T L F B I D O
H S K T W D A S R G S I E S R
F E E O N A A N S E R Z N R E
E O E N Y P S H L H H E C D W
I G P A G A E N J S C P T Y I
H L E J V E C L I M B S E N D
T T R E P S F Y L U R T C H E
W P D F N O R E G N A R T S S
Y B O E L D O O R M H G M Y E
Y L P L W A Y R T F O N A W F
D O O R A E H M J O L S K G I
A W P P B Z D Z D Y L S Y A L

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not **enter the sheepfold** by the door but **climbs in by another way**, that man is a **thief** and a **robber**. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the **gatekeeper opens**. The sheep **hear his voice**, and he **calls his own sheep by name** and **leads them out**. When he has brought out all his own, he **goes before them**, and the sheep **follow** him, for they **know his voice**. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the **door** of the sheep. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be **saved** and will go in and out and **find pasture**. I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life** for the sheep.

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The LORD is My Shepherd

Find the 46 bold words from Psalm 23 (ESV).

S K D A Y S W R N J L C R V P
D X U R R K L A W T N I O N A
E D I S E B W O H R G E V K T
A G G L S H L A L H A D A E H
T H S O T L P O T Y L E R U S
H H W E O T R E V E R O F V E
E A O F R D O C H A R O S I R
N F L I E U N N P S L S D J L
E F F T S G T E T T L A C N
M A R N U B R S S A H I E N Z
I T E A O P O E A S B J L Y M
E S V W H U F R E P C L L L G
S X O I L C M P K N A M E S C
X G Y D N W O D A H S L W V Y
E S G M E R C Y S H Q U D Q N

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 paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 forever.

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