

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC

Preservice Music/Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

Easter Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!** (*Repeat 3 times*)

Gathering Hymn #778 “The Lord’s My Shepherd” v. 3 – piano only

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie;
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake;
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.
- 3 **Piano only**
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast richly spread in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling-place shall be;
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling-place shall be.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Song of Praise (*spoken*) “This is the Feast”

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

1. **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 honour and blessing and glory are his. *Refrain.***
2. **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. *Refrain.***

Prayer of the Day

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 your live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their 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."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 From "The Message" by Eugene Peterson (*All read together in unison*)

**¹⁻³ God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word, you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.
⁴ Even when the way goes through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.
⁵ You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.
⁶ Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.**

Second Reading I John 3:16-24

⁶We know love by this, that he 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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Please rise in body or spirit*

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel John 10:11-18

Glory to you, O Lord

¹¹I 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 good news of our Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #650 "In Christ There is No East or West"

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
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 of the Faithful

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. We give you thanks for your servants and daughters, Renate and Erna, who celebrate their birthdays and praise you for the years of love and care shown to them by family and friends. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigour as a people of faith. In the midst of the challenges and opportunities set before us during these times of the pandemic, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark as well as our brother, Karsten, and those we name before you now in silence or aloud. . .*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace and Offertory

A musical reflection is played while the table is set

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

God of love, **you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. **And God is also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer over the Gifts of the Earth

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honour is yours, Eternal One, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Fraction (*Breaking of the bread*)

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied. **Hallelujah!**

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.

The feast of gladness is shared while a musical reflection is played

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Wellspring of joy, **through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.**

**Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses that your love
may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn #780 "Shepherd Me, O God" (*See last page for tune and text*)

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

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

Postlude

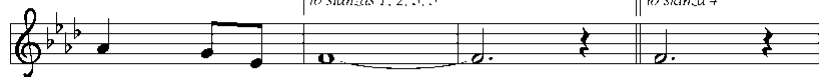
Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

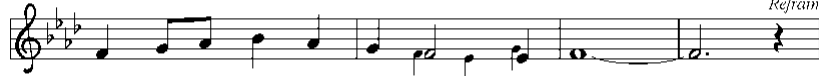


1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Refrain

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mcr-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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