

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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“Peace Lutheran Church... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ’s love, and teach God’s Word.”

Our Vision: Equipping Our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work and Play

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Good Shepherd Sunday

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a Shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepard!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” **LSB 711**

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

L To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.
C Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.

L Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

C All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

- L** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
- C** **And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L** Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and pray for His gracious forgiveness.
- C** **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not always obeyed. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PSALM *Psalm 23*

- C** **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

Men: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Women: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

- C** **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.**

Men: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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

- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- L** Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepard of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we will follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 3:1–2, 6–8; 4: 5, 7–12 *Pew Bible, pg. 1082*
(*Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.*)

- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 1 John 3:16–24 *Pew Bible, pg. 1212*
(*Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.*)

- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

- L** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** **Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11–18 *Pew Bible, pg. 1065*

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Apostles Creed*

- C** **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of saints, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” **LSB 709**

SERMON “Becoming a Good Shepherd” **Randy Martens**

OFFERING

- May be left in the narthex or mailed to the church
- May be given electronically:
 - Visit our web site: www.peacelcms.org
 - Click on the “Give” button or “Ministries” and then on “Online Giving”
- May be given by text to (989) 308-4203 & then follow the instructions

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord, trusting in God’s loving response; we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God’s people, asking that the Lord will bless all who care for His flock.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

L We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthy journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

L We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort...

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

L These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

C 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

L Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Beautiful Savior” **LSB 537**

† **Our service is over; our worship begins.** †

Acknowledgments:

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