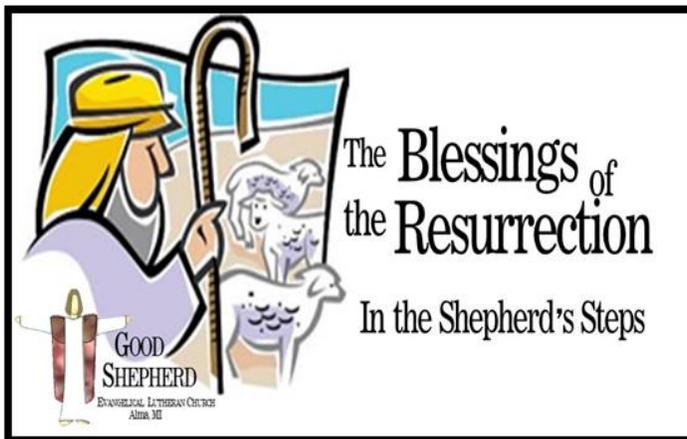


Worship Guide

April 18, 2021

God's Word for Today

Imagine everyone on earth were a needle: there are well over six billion needles in a huge pile. How can God keep them all straight? How can God keep his eye on you in particular, and hear your prayers? He has no trouble at all— and not only because he is Almighty. Jesus is your Good Shepherd. He knows you as well as he knows the Father, and as the Father knows you. That's why he laid down his life for you.



GATHERING: based on Revelation 7 verses 9,10,15 -17.

Pastor: We begin our worship remembering why we can even be in God's house—because He has placed his name upon us in baptism.

Congregation: For we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

P: This is what the Lord your God says:

C. "I myself will search for my sheep.

P: I will seek the lost and bring back the straying.

C: I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak."

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*

CW 436

♪ **Jesus, shepherd of the sheep,
who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
guarded still by You.**

**In Your promise firm we stand;
none can take us from Your hand.
Speak! We hear! At Your command,
we will follow You.**

**By Your blood our souls were bought;
by Your life salvation wrought;
By Your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow You.**

**We, in robes of glory dressed,
join the' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
in the fold with You.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen



P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us humbly confess our sins to the almighty God.

All: Almighty and most merciful God, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the desires of our own sinful natures. We have offended your perfect will. We have left undone those things, which we should have done; and we have done those things, which we should not have done. For all this and more we deserve nothing but your punishment. But

with you, O Lord, there is forgiveness. Spare us, O God, as we confess our faults. Restore us according to your promises in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, for his sake, that we may live a godly, righteous life, to the glory of your holy name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

P: Hear God's voice: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. For we were going astray like sheep, but now have been returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. By the command and the grace of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen!



FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹ For this is what the LORD God says. Here I am. I myself will seek the welfare of my flock and carefully search for them. ¹² As a shepherd searches for his flock when his sheep that were with him have been scattered, so I will search for my flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own soil. I will shepherd them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and in all the settlements of the land. ¹⁴ I will lead them into good pasture, and their grazing land will be on the high mountains of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and they will pasture on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will shepherd my flock. I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the weak. I will destroy the fat and the strong, and I will shepherd them with justice.

SECOND LESSON - - 1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. ²² He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. ²³ When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Pastor: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

GOSPEL - John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to 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 authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

HYMN: *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

CW 432

**♪ I am Jesus' little lamb, ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,**

**knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.**

**Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go, where the quiet waters flow.**

**Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, there within His arms to rest.**

SERMON 1 Peter 2:21-25

EASTER BLESSINGS: IN THE STEPS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

✦ THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION ✦

CONFIRMANDS:

PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION:

Dear members of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, today these young people are becoming communicant members of our congregation. I therefore ask you: Is it your sincere intent to pray for them and encourage them in their faith? Will you set a Christian example for these confirmands by using God's Word daily in your lives, by worshipping regularly in this house of God, by making use of Bible study opportunities and by faithfully partaking of the Lord's Supper? If you are willing to do this, answer:

C: YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

Close Communion: *Guided by God's word we believe that the Lord's Supper is an expression of faith and confession. We therefore ask that only members of the WELS or her sister synods would commune with us. If you have any questions please talk to the pastor.*

THE PREPARATION

P: So that we would more confidently believe and be strengthened in cheerful obedience to his holy will, Jesus has instituted the Sacrament of his Holy Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and blood.

C: We should do this also in remembrance of him, showing his death, that he was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification; and, giving him our most heartfelt thanks, love one another as he has loved us.

P: In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true

heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal.

C: In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

P: Come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall enjoy when his kingdom has fully come.

C: Since by his death, resurrection, and ascension Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so are we to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of saints.

CONSECRATION

SUNG RESPONSE:

(tune: CW 372)

♪ I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains,
White in his blood most precious till not a spot remains

DISTRIBUTION

SONG OF SIMEON (after Distribution)

(tune: CW 372)

♪ I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine.
His right hand me embraces; I in his arms recline.
I love the name of Jesus, my Savior and my Lord
He from my sin releases and all God's love restores.

CLOSING PRAYER (Pastor & Congregation)

Lord Jesus, You have blessed us through this Holy Supper. Preserve us in your word; fill us with your Holy Spirit; so that we may live lives that glorify you and proclaim your salvation throughout the world. In faith in your forgiveness and grace we pray this, and the prayer you taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* **CW 331**

**♪ Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing waters flow.
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer, be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS