



Your Shepherd Calls

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Matins

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Please use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is affectionately known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." Although we were straying like lost sheep, Jesus found and rescued us. He has sent under-shepherds to lead us in the green pastures of his church.

CONFESSION OF SIN

p. 109

HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | #370

VERSICLES AND VENITE EXULTEMUS

p. 109–111

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we follow our good Shepherd: Loving God, we thank you that your Son Jesus is the good Shepherd who cares for your people. Open our hearts to hear his voice, to know him as he calls us by name, and to follow wherever he leads. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

The early church faithfully followed the voice of their Shepherd and became gates themselves for others to be saved.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

HYMN

I am Jesus' Little Lamb | #177

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19–25

Not even suffering and tragedy can remove us from the care of our good Shepherd.

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

1 Je - sus, shep-herd of the sheep, who your Fa - ther's flock does keep,
 2 In your prom-ise firm we stand none can take us from your hand;
 3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your life sal - va - tion wrought;
 4 Fa - ther draw us to your Son we with joy will fol - low on
 5 We in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as-sem - bly of the blest,



safe we wake and safe we sleep, guard-ed still by you.
 speak—we hear—at your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
 by your light our feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
 till the work of grace is done, there to live with you.
 gath - ered to e - ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

SERMON

John 10:1–10

Jesus is the exclusive gate to abundant life. False shepherds can be identified as they climb over the wall, that is, when they reject Jesus as the Christ.

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

HYMN

My God, Accept My Heart This Day | #512

OFFERING

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RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:45)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS, PRAYERS, AND BENEDICTION

p. 114–119

Confirmands

NOAH ALLAN EDWARDS

John 8:31-32 — “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

ZAVIER LOGAN SOKHAN KHOUTH

Hebrews 13:5b — “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

JOHN AVERY MOLDSTAD

Ephesians 2:8-9 — For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.

ABIGAIL LYRIS MADISON OCHELTREE

Joshua 1:9 — “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

KAILEY JO OPPITZ

Joshua 1:9 — “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Preacher..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Organist (Sunday)..... Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Jenny Merseth



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Vicar Max Kerr | Principal Allen Labitzky