



*Follow the Good Shepherd*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

# 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, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

## *Service of Preparation*

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.*

### HYMN

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want | #371*

### INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you—of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ—to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

**C: I do.**

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!  
Amen.

## ANTHEM

## *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

*The Lord is my shepherd; therefore I can lack nothing.*

*He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*

*He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness.*

*For his name's sake, for his name's sake, for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*

*For thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me.*

*Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:*

*Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.*

*But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, in the house of the Lord forever, forever.*

# Service of the Word

*This world is full of dangerous people and dangerous influences. The readings on this Good Shepherd Sunday tell us Jesus faced ultimate danger to protect his sheep, even laying down his life for us. He continues to protect us from spiritual danger by the use of the power of his true word. That's good news for people who can't face danger alone.*

## 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.

## GOSPEL READING

John 10:11–18

*The whole work of Jesus from Christmas to Easter had this in mind: that he should be and remain our Good Shepherd and we should be and remain his sheep.*

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> 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.”

*St. Paul charged the church elders to be watchful shepherds and protect the members of their congregation.*

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE****HYMN**

*I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb* | #177

**SERMON**

1 John 4:1–6

*St. John encourages us to test every message that comes into our lives like someone inspecting for counterfeit currency, comparing them against the original.*

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## HYMN

*Create in Me*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

## *Service of Thanksgiving*

### OFFERING

*We give offerings out of thanks for all that God, in Jesus, has done for us. King of Grace uses these offerings to support the preaching and teaching of God's word here and around the world. Contribute at [www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give](http://www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give) or in the offering plates.*



### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

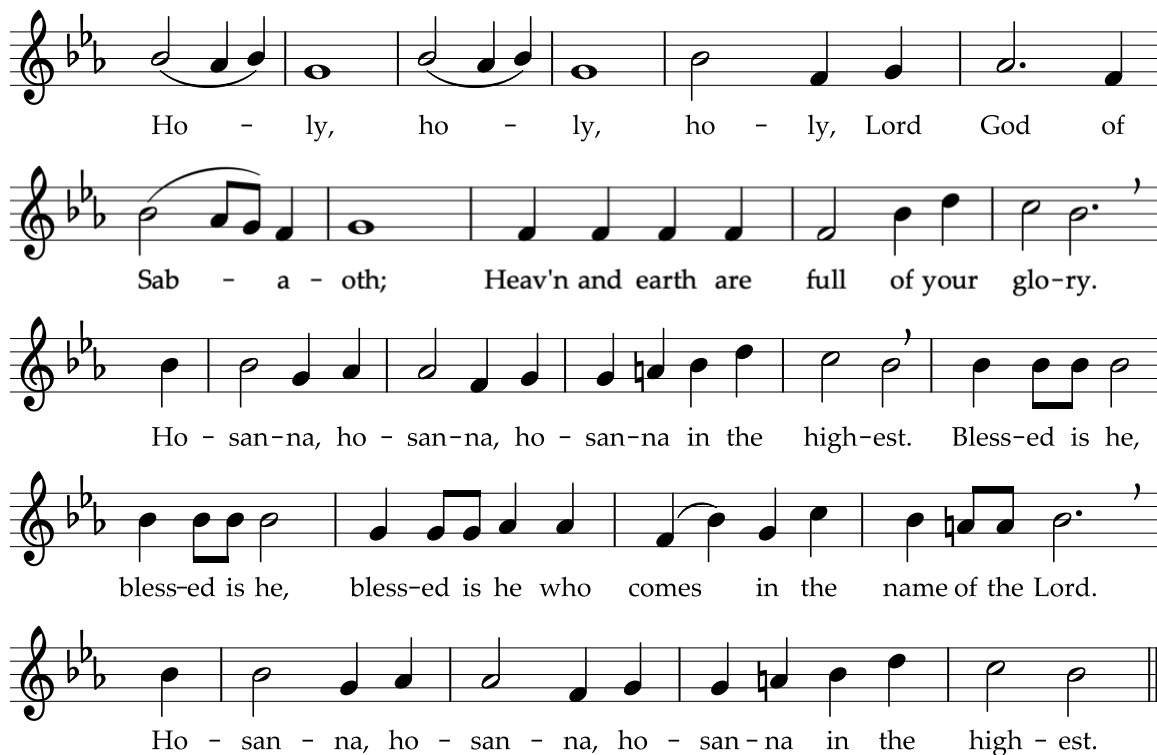
# Service of the Sacrament

*The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.*

P: Let us pray: It is truly, good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Above all, we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the Passover Lamb that was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and worship your glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

## HYMN

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Sab - a - oth; Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.  
Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Agnus Dei*

O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is* | #370

# THANKSGIVING HYMN

*Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace  
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry  
of your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

The musical score is written on seven staves in G-clef (treble clef). The lyrics are placed below the notes. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are several slurs and ties used throughout the piece. The final measure of the seventh staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

