

Order of Service

4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

Opening Hymn: ELH 370 vs 1, 3, 4, 6

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His, And He is mine forever.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever.

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Invocation

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

C: (spoken) Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: "I am the Good Shepherd," says the Lord.

C: The Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.

Confession and Absolution:

P: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and no secrets are hidden. Cleanse our thoughts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and honor your holy name. Let us confess our sins:

C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of the world: We confess that we have sinned against your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed. We have provoked your anger against us. We repent and are truly sorry for our sins. It grieves us to think about them. Their burden is heavy. Have mercy on us, gracious Father. Forgive us our sins for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve you with a new life, to the honor of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Rejoice! The Lord, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office, I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: (spoken) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

Prayer for the Day

P: 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: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

(Luke presents the history of Stephen and his martyrdom. Stephen speaks words of rebuke to those who shun the Good Shepherd, and he subsequently suffers at their hands. He dies speaking words of forgiveness *reminiscent of his Lord's words and is gathered in peace to his Shepherd's caring arms.*)

¹In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue

of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen....

^{7:2} Stephen said, "Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen....

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— ⁵³ you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it."

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ He said, "Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸ They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep. (EHV)

Psalmody: Psalm 23

P: The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

C: He leads me beside quiet waters.

P: He restores my soul.

C: He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

C: I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil. My cup is overflowing.

C: Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

(Peter exhorts Christians to follow their Shepherd who has recalled them to himself *for his mercy's sake*. Especially in times of suffering, they would remember the redemptive suffering of Jesus, who died for them and whose suffering leaves them an example to follow.)

¹⁹ For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

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. ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (EHV)

Congregational Response: (sung) (Tune ELH 388)

God, my shepherd, shall provide Everything I want or need.
Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; I shall follow where you lead.

Gospel: John 10: 1-6, 10

(Jesus depicts himself as shepherd and sheep-gate in two brief parables. In the first, he is the shepherd who is contrasted with false shepherds. He enters the sheep pen rightfully, is recognized by the sheep, and leads them to pasture. In the second, he is the door to the sheep pen through which they sheep exit to find pastures. Our Savior is the One who cares for the sheep.)

¹“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The doorkeeper opens the door 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 sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them....

¹⁰“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (EHV)

The Confession of Faith— The Apostles' Creed

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there 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 sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Sermonette

Hymn: ELH 384 "Our Father, Throned In Heaven Above"

Our Father, throned in heav'n above,

All glory to Thy name of love.

Thy Kingdom come; Thy holy will

May earth as well as heav'n fulfill.

Give us this day our daily food

With all we need of promised good;

And freely all our sins remit

As we our debtors freely quit.

Defend us from the tempter's ways,

Uphold when tried, when fallen raise

For pow'r is Thine, and boundless reign,

In glory ever more, Amen.

Sermon: Luke 11:1-13 “Pray with Bold Persistence!”

¹On another occasion, Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say, ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

⁵ He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and tell him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ because a friend of mine who is on a journey has come to me, and I do not have anything to set before him.’ ⁷ And the one inside replies, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give it to you.’ ⁸ I tell you, even if he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his bold persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

⁹ “I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives. The one who seeks finds. And to the one who knocks, it will be opened.

¹¹ “What father among you, if your son asks for bread, would give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, would give him a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, would give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (EHV)

Hymn: ELH 385 vs. 1, 2 (Tune – TLH 457)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -
Take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Offering Prayer

God, my Lord, my King, Thou art; Enter now my faithful heart.
There Thy blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.

Prayer of the Church

P: O Lord God, our Strength, our Song, and our Salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

P: In your compassion you sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

P: Make us instruments of your peace as we extend the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures. Teach us to put your kingdom first.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring our private petitions to you.

Silent prayer

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With joyful hearts we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken by All)

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.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with His favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen

Closing Hymn: ELH 193 vs. 2

“Jesus hall reign where'er the sun”

For Him shall endless prayer be made
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.