

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Back in the day, this Sunday was known as “Good Shepherd Sunday,” a time when the Gospel of John tells us of the role of Jesus in our lives as described within the Gospel. He is the Good Shepherd who looks after His sheep. Nothing harmful will happen to those under His watchful eye.

As I grew up in the city, I did not have a lot of room in my citified head to understand the beauty of this agricultural image. Yet year after year pastors talked about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Gave me wonder as a child to wonder what the “Bad Shepherds” would be all about!

The wonders of John’s gospel go deeper than just the naming of a Shepherd, good or bad. It is the action of the Good Shepherd that sets Him head and shoulders above all others. He pulls us out of the muck and mire we find ourselves as sheep who like to wander. He then deposits us safely into the fields that surround the babbling brook that Psalm 23 reminds us about. We are given the gift of life out of a certain death. And this is where most people stop short.

You see, Jesus gives us new life. For a reason!! We are given salvation from sin death, and all of the ways of the world, so that we might be free **for** something! This takes on an action step on our part. I think we may have fallen asleep in the grand garden Jesus may place us in, forgetting that we have a part to take up in all of this.

We are given new life, so that we in turn can share the good news of this new life. We can become the hands and feet of our dear Good Shepherd in this time and place. We can reach far beyond ourselves to share with the world what this new life we have been given is all about!

One commentator suggests we **listen** to God’s salvation words here, and then **live into them!** Maybe all of what Jesus gives us such as the forgiveness of sins and a new life is best savored and appreciated as we share it with others. Maybe we would do well to consider that this is something better shared than kept for oneself. The God whose mercies extend far beyond human comprehension might best be served as we live out that new life each and every day. In a most transparent fashion!

May the Good Shepherd bless us as we share in the new life, as we live it out in all we do!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

This blessed Easter season is our celebration of the great work that Jesus had accomplish while here on earth. His care and concern for the lost, the disenfranchised, and the neglected of society points our attention to what Jesus truly felt important as He shared the good news that the Kingdom of God was made manifest in His work, His suffering, His death on the cross, and now, His resurrection. We allow too many things to distract our attention away from what Christ brought that first Easter, and all of the subsequent Easters we celebrate. For that, and for the many other times we let our Lord down, we make our confession this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

HYMN 362 Blessed Assurance 1,3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:42-47

New Living Translation (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:19-25

New Living Translation (NLT)

For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

New Living Translation (NLT)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON "Saved From Something, For Something!" **Pastor Jonathon Kosec**

SERMON HYMN: 456 In The Garden 1,2,3

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SOLO "THE LORD'S PRAYER"

Dean Carson

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION

HYMN 188 Thine Be the Glory 1,2,3

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Pastor will invite prayer requests at the beginning of our service, so simply share them at that time.

TO OUR GUESTS: Welcome! We are happy that you are here, and we hope you have felt comfortable since you arrived. You are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper this day as God's sign of our redemption, His presence among us, and His promise to come again.

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