

Christ The King Evangelical Lutheran Church

“To know... To teach... To share Christ”

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

**23456 Olean Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33980**

Church Office: 941 766-9357

**revagumm@hotmail.com
myctk.com**



**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
*May 7, 2017***

Opening Hymn

CW 374 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Guide For Worship

CW Page 26 Service of Word and Sacrament

The First Lesson

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

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen. To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all

rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep. (NIV1984)

The Psalm

Psalm 23, CW Page 72

Congregation sings refrain and the second half of each verse

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 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. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 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. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (NIV1984)

Verse of the Day

The minister says the proper Verse of the Day

After the Verse of the Day, the congregation sings:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel

Please Stand

John 10:1-10

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(NIV1984)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon Hymn

CW 360 “The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want“

Sermon

“The Good Shepherd”

Psalm 23

Nicene Creed

CW Page 31

Offering

Our Offerings to the Lord are freewill. Let your offerings be a joyful response to God's Grace to you.

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

CW Page 32

The Sacrament

In the celebration of the Holy Supper, we receive, in a miraculous way, the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in, with and under the bread and wine. We celebrate the restored fellowship we have with God through the blood of our Savior, and we publicly declare complete oneness in faith with those who receive the body and blood with us. Because the Bible teaches this is so, and out of a love for those who may accidentally receive the sacrament in an unscriptural way, we kindly ask that only those who have publicly declared their oneness in faith (membership in Christ the King, the WELS or ELS) participate in the meal today. Thank You.

Please make sure to indicate your attendance at communion on the communion sign up list in the narthex.

CW Page 33

Prayer and Benediction

CW Page 36

Closing Hymn

CW #331 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Announcements

Christ The King Evangelical Lutheran Church

Today, May 7 Bible Study, 9:30 AM
 Worship Service, 10:30 AM
Tuesday, May 9: No Bible Study
 Pastoral Circuit Meeting, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, May 10: Choir, 6:30 PM
Thursday, May 11: Men's Breakfast, 8:00 AM
 Church Council, 9:00 AM

Pastor in the Office: Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Please bring "Goodies" for Sunday Fellowship.

Please continue to bring food items for our food pantry, especially protein items.

Don't forget to check the sign up sheets in the Narthex.

Serving our congregation: President-Larry Martin, Finance Chairman-John Smith, Worship Chairman-Marlyn Rische, Education Chairman-Ron Gorske, Outreach Chairman-Don Schoening, Properties Chairman-Wally Jordan

*May Birthdays: David Giddings, John Smith, & Sue Whittier-16th;
Ellen Laurencell-21st; Terry Fleming-22nd*

May Anniversaries: George & Carol Davis-25th

*Prayer List: Doris Cox, Ellen Laurencell, Mary Emery, Fran Stecher, Keith Haslam,
Dick Clemens, John & Joan Smith*



GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK

Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of shepherd and sheep are certainly familiar to modern Christians, but do those concepts resonate as deeply for us as they did for the people of God 2000 years ago? "In such a landscape as Judea, where a day's pasture is thinly scattered over an unfenced tract of country, covered with delusive paths, frequented by wild beasts, and rolling off into the desert, the shepherd and his character are indispensable. On some high moor, across which at night the hyenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judea sprang to the front in his people's history; why they gave his name to their kings; why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice." (George Smith) On Good Shepherd Sunday we see how sharp the contrast is between true shepherds and false shepherds. All is determined by their relationship to Christ, the only gate for the sheep.

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

Note the sharp contrast between true shepherds and false shepherds. The apostles' care for Christ and his Church leads them to raise up more leaders to serve. See how these new leaders enter by the gate! Stephen holds to Christ no matter what the consequences! But how true were Jesus' words about false shepherds: they come only to kill and destroy. With their words and teeth and rocks they testified to whom they belonged. Stephen was a μάρτυς until the end, a witness of the Savior who waited to bring him to eternal pasture. Psalm 23 graces many funerals. How fitting that on this day when we hear of the Church's first martyr, we sing Psalm 23 and remember Stephen, a true shepherd who now dwells in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Undoubtedly, the Church was rocked by the martyrdom of Stephen—Peter included. Yet Peter reminds us that not even suffering and tragedy can remove us from the care of our Good Shepherd. To be the gate for straying sheep meant that Jesus had to suffer for us. So Jesus did—willingly, silently—bearing the sins of straying sheep. Now Peter calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good.

The Gospel: John 10:1-10

In the three-year cycle of readings, Good Shepherd Sunday draws its Gospel lessons from successive readings of John 10. In this lesson, Christ only infers that he is the Good Shepherd. Rather, the great "I am" statement that sets the direction for this Sunday is "I am the gate for the sheep." The preceding context of this lesson is crucial. After Jesus healed the man born blind, the Pharisees interrogated the man and his family about the healing. The Pharisees had already rejected Jesus as the Christ and were expelling from the synagogue anyone who confessed Christ. After throwing the man out of the synagogue, they verbally accost Jesus. This lesson is his answer to them. Jesus' "I am" statements highlight the exclusivity of the Christian message. Christ is Savior, and there is no other! Jesus is the only gate for the sheep, and there is no other! When a man approaches the sheep, one only needs to see how he enters the pen. Does he use the gate, i.e., does he confess Christ as Savior? True shepherds use the gate, preach Christ, and love the sheep. False shepherds refuse the gate, reject Christ, and destroy the flock.

OUR READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

First Lesson Acts 17:1-12

Second Lesson 1 Peter 2:4-10

The Gospel John 14:1-12

Psalm 33