

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Voter's Mtg Via Zoom. 11:15 AM.

April 23 – Wedding of Ben & Brandy Hodgson – Ben is being deployed to Germany

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: By this we know love,

C: that He laid down His life for us.

P: "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.

C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

C: And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 23; John 10:11*

**P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

**C: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful
for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

**P: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of
righteousness for His name's sake.**

**C: Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we
are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our
lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

**P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

**C: We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in
Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good
Shepherd.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C: As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ’s laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE “Joyfully”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Risen Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. They are Yours, and nothing will snatch them from Your hand. In the love You’ve shown and the perfect love we know through Your Spirit, empower Your flock to reach others, that all may be guided by Your shepherding grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 4:1–12* (Peter and John witness before the council.)

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:16–24* (Love one another.)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C: Alleluia. I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11–18* (Jesus the Good Shepherd)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 709 "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.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

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.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

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

SERMON "Why Good Shepherd" John 10:11-18 Pastor Matt

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray to the Lord,
C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

You are the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: For the times we fear our enemies and the powers against us, remind us that we belong to You and no one can snatch us from Your hand. We bring before the Lord the part of Your flock here in this place and others whom we love in their time of need, [*especially* the children, Daniel Kusch, Levi Tsu, Gavin Vosholler and Owen Wrigley. Deal mercifully with all those on our prayer list. Help us to remember those in need and give us hearts and hands with which to bring Your comfort to those who are suffering. Be with Linda Williams as she visits her sister June who is waiting to be received soon into her eternal rest. Be with Dorinda Werner as she deals with cancer and the additional pain of kidney stones. And give special strength to April Witkowski, daughter in law of Mark & Joetta Witkowski, as she also struggles with her newly discovered cancer. Grant healing to Peggy Russell who wrestles with vertigo while patiently waiting for her broken wrist to heal. Bring healing and comfort to our former member Mike Bradfield who has added pancreatitis to his suffering. We lift up also Wayne Sell in the time of his ailment and ask for deliverance from the pain. Carry them all, Good Shepherd, as lambs in Your powerful yet gentle arms through every difficult path ahead. Grant wisdom to know the faithful path we are to take, and shepherd us through every trial, trouble, and temptation; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Give us courage that we not live in captivity to our fears; guide those who lead us in this and every land; provide peace, justice, and freedom for people everywhere. In our busy days, give us time to reflect upon the goodness of God and to experience joy in the security and peace You provide us, that we find contentment and peace in You; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and all who serve on the front lines as police, firefighters, Parameds, and all who serve to keep our communities safe. Defend us from our enemies, and teach us to rely on Your provision, the true protector of us all; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Let Your church never fail to help those in need but share with all the Lord has entrusted to us and to display the kind of love shown and known, that has no end; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Let lasting joy attend the hearts of Zachary Kinsella, Harlan Feary, Diana Brandmeyer, Carie Boulanger, Chris Michael and Autumn Kesting who celebrate their B-Days this week. Bless the union of Ben and Brandy Hodgson married last Friday that their home may be a sanctuary of praise where Your holy presence dwells. Let Your praises be sung also for the anniversary celebration of Dennis & Donna Brockmeyer, that Your name may be glorified through this treasured gift of marital love; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord who gently leads us to pray as He has taught us saying:

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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *1 John 3:16a; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; Numbers 6:24–26*

P: By this we know love, **C:** that He laid down His life for us.

P: “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord smile upon you and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN No. 711 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

SENDING