

Our Good Shepherd
April 25, 2021



✠ PREPARATION ✠

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

[LSB 740]

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

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

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: By this we know love,

People: **that He laid down His life for us.**

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalms 23; John 10:11

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

People: **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.

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

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

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" [LSB 710]



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
 2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
 4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
 walk doth make With - in the paths of
 fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
 of my foes; My head Thou dost with
 fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
 and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
 ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

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✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalms 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. 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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it

was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

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

4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes

gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus^[a] is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.^[b] ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men^[a] by which we must be saved."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And 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. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God,^[a] and God^[b] in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

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

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM

Explanation of the First Article

Pastor: Shepherds provide for all the needs of their flock. Out of His love, our creating God provides not only for our spiritual needs of faith and forgiveness, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social well-being. Believing in God the Father as creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, which we confess together:

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: What does this mean?
People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears,
and all my members, my reason and all my senses,
and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and
drink, house and home, wife and children, land,
animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides
me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and
protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of
fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any
merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty
to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

SERMON HYMN “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” [LSB 770]



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

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SERMON Jesus, Our True Shepherd - John 10:11-18

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: 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.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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 . . .*]. Carry them
as lambs in a shepherd's arms through the difficult paths
ahead. Give all 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.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Additional petitions may follow.

Pastor: 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.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and the public workers who 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.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That we do not forget 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.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That we recall the saints of old, who put their trust in the Lord, that we also be found faithful when He returns in glory; let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That as we gather at the Table of the communion of saints for the forgiveness of sins, having faith to receive His gifts for the nourishment of our lives of faith now and to the life that is to come; let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

People: 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.

BENEDICTION

1 John 3:16a; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: By this we know love,
People: that He laid down His life for us.

Pastor: “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.
People: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN

"O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe" [LSB 666]



1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er-more. A - men.

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