



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Setting One (LSB p. 151)

"Love one another with mutual affection."

Romans 12:10

There are many—alas, all too many—who are called shepherds and who dare to take it upon themselves to govern our souls, to feed them, and to direct them. But I am the only one who is called the Good Shepherd. Apart from me the shepherds are not good. All the others are merciless and cruel, because they leave the poor sheep to the jaws of the wolf. But you should learn to know me as your dear, faithful, saintly, kind, gracious, and comforting shepherd, toward whom your hearts should be joyful and full of trust because through me you are redeemed from all your burdens, fears, sorrows and dangers. He will not and cannot suffer you to be lost. This I prove (he says) in that I lay down my life for the sheep.

Therefore hold on to me with a cheerful heart, and let no other rule over your conscience, but listen to me when I speak such comforting words to you and show you in very deed that is not my will to force you forward, to plague and burden you, like Moses and others, but with loving kindness to lead you and direct you, protect you and help you.

—Martin Luther, *Sermons from John*

Welcome and Announcements

We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[Matt 28:19b; 18:20]

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** [1 John 1:8-9]

Quiet time for self-examination and confession

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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.** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Entrance Psalm

[Psalm 23:1-6]

☞ 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.**

Lord, Have Mercy

[Mark 10:47, Setting 1]

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. B Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. B Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. B A - men

Hymn of Praise—This Is The Feast

[Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9]

Sung to music on page 155

All This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

All Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. **Refrain**

All Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen **Refrain**

All For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. **Refrain**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1 Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray...[silence for individual prayer] Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The First Reading is from Acts:

Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" [Acts 20:17-35]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading is from Revelation:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

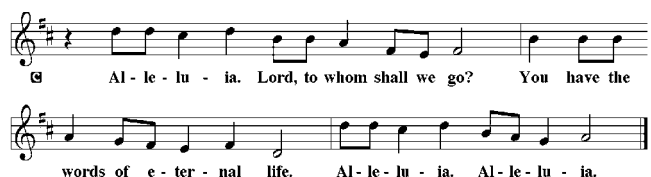
Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with
his presence.
They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun
shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their
shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living
water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

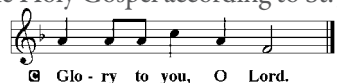
[Revelation 7:9-17]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse. [John 6:68]



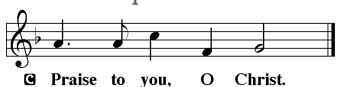
The Holy Gospel according to St. John:



At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusa-
lem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple,
in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered
around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us
in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus
answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The
works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about
me, but you do not believe because you are not among
my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will
never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than
all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's
hand. I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones
again to stone him.

Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works
from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone
me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work
that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because
you, being a man, make yourself God." [John 10:22-30]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Children's Talk

[Mark 10:14-16; Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16-17]

*Please sit. The children are invited forward for a message
based on today's Scripture readings led by Pastor Fitch.*

Hymn

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us | 711

Sermon

Our Confession of Faith

*Please stand to confess the **Apostles' Creed** printed on the inside back
cover of the hymnal.*

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert.

Sharing of the Peace

*Following the prayers, you may greet one another in the name of the Lord,
saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay

Please stand.



Hymn

Have No Fear, Little Flock | 735 (3-4)

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places give thanks to you holy Lord, almighty
Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, And
most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for
the glorious resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ, the very
Paschal lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of
the world. By his dying he destroyed death, and by his rising
again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with
Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, and John, and with all the
witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and
with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your
glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have
had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-
begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.
With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for
us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on
the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we
beg you, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with
Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body
and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.
Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to
celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb
in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our
prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all
glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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

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. [Matt 6:9-13]

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

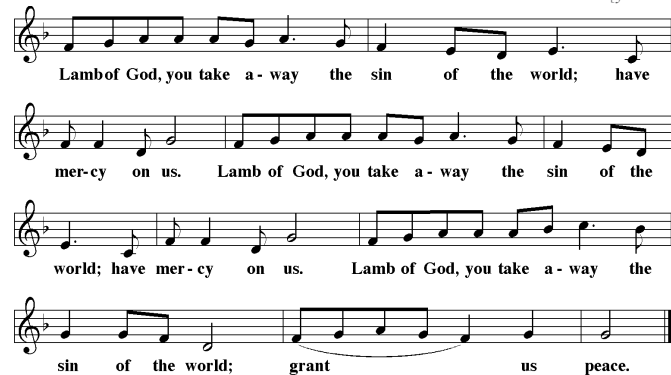
In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is the new testament in my + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

[John 1:29]



Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

Hymns

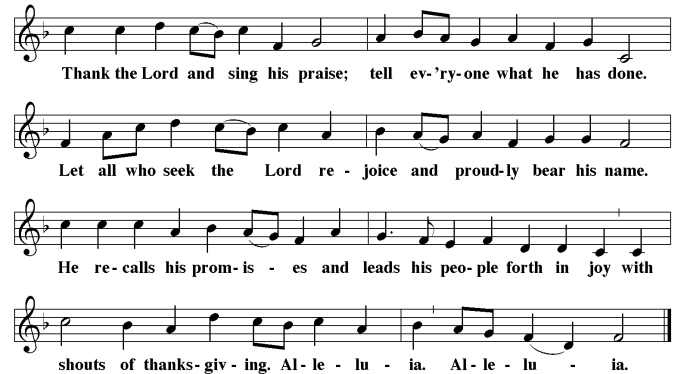
God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It | **594**

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | **740**

Father Welcomes | **605**

When all have communed, please stand.

Post Communion Song



Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Benediction

[Numbers 6:24-26]

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. **Amen.**

Hymn

Jerusalem the Golden | **672**

Postlude

Acknowledgments—Artwork—The Good Shepherd by Jorge Cocco Santangelo. All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The order of service is from Lutheran Service Book, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted under oneLicense.net #A-710394. 2019 Bulletins (Year C) 4E May 11, 2025 (setting 1)