



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Wilton, WI  
 Fourth Sunday of Easter  
 May 3, 2020  
**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's  
 Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

**Gathering**  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

Gathering Hymn

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
 3 You have prom-ised to re-ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear-ly let us seek your fa-vor, ear-ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



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 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.  
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 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

### Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.\**

## FIRST READING

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

### Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

### 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

### The gospel according to John 10:1-10

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn

## The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites, especially as they may be implementing new online formats, and working at home.

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

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind, and those who work in processing plants. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world and keep them safe from the coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering especially Katie, Carla, Ralph, Dakota, Bill, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Dick, Donna, and those we name aloud and in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations and communities.. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
is for - ev - er - sure; his truth at all times  
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

**Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Ralph Vitous, Dick Krause, Donna Welch.

### **IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty; Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale

### **CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE**

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311).

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435).

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu)

Justin Arndt: [arndt.now@gmail.com](mailto:arndt.now@gmail.com)

Church: [wiltonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonchurch@gmail.com)

Nalani Bever: [nalanib@gmail.com](mailto:nalanib@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

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