

Sunday, April 22, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

PRELUDE

"Foundation"

Wilbur Held

*GATHERING SONG

"The Church's One Foundation"

ELW 654

Vs 1 – ALL / Vs 2 – WOMEN / Vs 3 - CHOIR ONLY / Vs 4 – MEN / Vs 5 – ALL

A1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

W Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

Choir Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

M Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,

she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

A1 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

***GREETING**

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

C And also with you.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

"When Morning Gilds the Sky" vv. 1 & 4

ELW 853

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,*

C you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Psalm 23 (*read all together*)

¹The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

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

⁴**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.**

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

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

Reflection

As you read this Psalm, what feelings does it evoke in you? What is the promise that you most need to hear in this psalm on this day? Do you know this psalm by heart?

ANTHEM

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

David Childs

Chancel Choir

Sylvester Heeler, French Horn

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reflection

The story preceding this text is the healing of a man who was begging because he was crippled and so could not work. He begged from Peter and John, who healed him, and then to the crowd gathered around, Peter preached about Jesus. So Jewish leaders and authorities arrested them. (Read this in Acts 3:1-4:4) As our text begins, Peter and John were brought into the presence of

these people. Who are they, and where have we encountered them recently? (verses 5-6—see also John 18:12-28) Compare Peter’s demeanor and actions in this story with how he acted and what he did in the story in John 18. What do they ask Peter? (verse 7) How does Peter respond to them? (verses 8-12) What has changed? (See verse 8) This reminds me of Jesus’ warning to his disciples before his crucifixion. (See Luke 21:12-15) Where did Peter’s words come from? When you are asked about your faith, or your trust in God or in Jesus, where do your words come from?

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reflection

How do we know that God’s love is true? (verse 16) What are we commanded to do through the love of God? How can we tell if someone has God’s love in her heart? (verse 17) John the letter writer might agree that “thoughts and prayers” not backed up by deeds are pretty useless. (See verse 18) I don’t know about you, but I have plenty of thoughts and prayers not backed up by deeds. How does God look at us when our hearts condemn us? (verses 19-20) What are we reassured will happen? (verses 21-22) What are the boundaries for the love we have been given? (verses 23-24)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Reflection

How does Jesus describe his relationship with his followers? (verse 11, verses 14-15) How can we distinguish between the good shepherd (Jesus) and those who do not lead because of their faith in Jesus? (verses 12-13) How do we know who is a follower of Jesus? (verse 16) Are those we don't recognize out of the fold, or in? How are we confident of Jesus' abiding love for us? (verses 17-18) What promises do you hear in this text? How do they reassure you?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

SERMON

"Emptied for Forgiveness"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Shout to the Lord"

**My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You**

**Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**☞ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!**

***PRAYER SONG**

"Shepherd Me, O God"

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for church custodians, office managers, Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, baptismal sponsors, deacons, pastors, youth workers, and bishops. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore natural environments damaged by our hands. We pray for river valleys and grassy plains, coral reefs and arctic ice, mountains, deserts, and marshlands. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give to all who are restless, reckless, or uncertain the peace you promise that is deeper and richer than anything we can imagine. We pray for all who live with chronic pain, who live with anxiety, and who are ill or hospitalized *especially Dorothy, Mary Anna, Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nourish us with the testimony of all the disciples who have gone before us. We give thanks for the faithful departed and their witness in every age. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"His Name Is Wonderful"

**His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful
Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King
Master of ev'rything
His name is Wonderful
Jesus my Lord
He's the Great Shepherd
The rock of all ages
Almighty God is He
Bow down before Him
Love and adore Him
His name is Wonderful
Jesus my Lord**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Thank the Lord"

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord**

rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises
and leads his people forth in joy
with shours of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

G **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.
Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who come,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

C **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

C **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!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Now let us feast on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Life-giving God,*

C **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.*

Almighty God, Father, \mp Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"God Is Good All the Time"

Refrain

**God is good all the time
He put a song of praise
In this heart of mine
God is good all the time
Through the darkest night
His light will shine
God is good God is good
All the time**

**If you're walkin' through the valley
And there are shadows all around
Do not fear He will guide you
He will keep you safe and sound
'Cause He has promised to never leave you
Nor forsake you and His Word is true *Refrain***

**We were sinners so unworthy
Still for us He chose to die
Filled us with His Holy Spirit
Now we can stand and testify
That His love is everlasting
And His mercies they will never end *Refrain***

**Though I may not understand
All the plans You have for me
My life is in Your hands
And through the eyes of faith
I can clearly see**

God is good all the time
He put a song of praise
In this heart of mine
God is good all the time
Through the darkest night
His light will shine
God is good He's so good
God is good He's so good
God is good He's so good all the time

***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!