



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

resurrection
REALity

Easter 4 - April 21, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Good Shepherd Sunday

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Sheep are helpless animals; an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a Shepherd. He proved He is willing to lay down His life for His sheep. The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of His gospel.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment
and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor’s Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor’s Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



WORSHIP SERVICE

552 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

CW 552 sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with
5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, a



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my
ban - quet here be - stow - ing; your oil of wel - come,



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.
com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.
my de - light; my cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, alt.

Tune: Irish, 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession & Absolution

In mercy, God opened to us the throne of His grace and kindness through Our Good Shepherd. Let us then, with sincere hearts, draw near to the throne of God in honest true confession, and lay open our sins before Him:

Eternal Good Shepherd, I have sinned. I have wandered away from You. I have pursued my ways instead of Your ways. I am not worthy to be called one of Your sheep.

If You kept a record of sins; my situation would be hopeless. I acknowledge that I deserve the rod of Your righteous anger and eternal wrath.

**I come to You, Good Shepherd, and humbly ask:
Have mercy on me, forgive me, and comfort me here today.**

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CW 552 st. 3

3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, featuring a triplet of eighth notes on the word 'sought'. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, ending with a double bar line.

The Good Shepherd loved us so much, that He lay down His life for the sheep. Because of what He has done, God has forgiven you, and cleansed you from all wickedness. You have been made a new people under God. Rest assured that you have peace with God; that all your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father, and the Son † , and the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Our citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20) And we eagerly await a Savior from there; the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ, who is your life, appears again in the same way He ascended into heaven, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Colossians 3:4)

Never again will we hunger; never again will we thirst. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd. He will lead us to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. (Revelation 7:16-17)

We now have peace with God through our Good Shepherd. *(Ro. 5:1)*

Let us respond to His grace and forgiveness by following Him all the way home to heaven, and worshipping Him in true joy:

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CW 552 st. 6

6 And so through all the length of days your
good - ness fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I
sing your praise with - in your house for - ev - er!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd who laid down Your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of Your life-giving Word that we may abide in Your Father's house forevermore; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 20:28–32

²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The LORD is my shepherd,

I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths 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 your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading

1 John 4:1–6

¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Alleluia, Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” Alleluia.

606 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

CW 606 st. 1

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”

Gospel Reading

John 10:11–18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

555 *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

CW 555



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; he
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain and
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet
 4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall



makes me down to lie in pas - tures green; he
 me to walk doth make with - in the paths of
 will I fear no ill; for thou art with me,
 pres - ence of my foes; my head thou dost with
 sure - ly fol - low me, and in God's house for -



lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 right - eous - 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.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650
 Tune: William Gardiner, 1770–1853
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 10:11-18 "The Shepherd We NEED"

804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

CW 804



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.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate Your Easter victory. You laid down Your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that You give us eternal life.

Good Shepherd, save us.

Strengthen our faith to follow where You lead, to the green pastures of Your Word, the quiet waters of our Baptism, and the gracious Table of Your Body and Blood where our cup overflows with Your forgiving love. Guide us to find in You the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

Good Shepherd, lead us.

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and try to snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those You have called to shepherd Your flock, the Church.

Good Shepherd, guide us.

Let Your rod and Your staff comfort us and all Your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

Hear us Lord as we pray for those sheep who need your help . . .

May we find in Your redemption and Your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in Your house forever.

Good Shepherd, console us.

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom You have claimed as Your own. Give us Your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

Good Shepherd, inspire us.

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from Your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure.

Thank you for our Grace flock of believers, and bless the work we do as we strive to share your love and truth here and across the world. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish Your most precious gifts, Your Word and Sacraments, so that Your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our lives.

Good Shepherd, hear us. 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.**

Closing Blessing

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

583 God Loves Me Dearly

CW 583 sts. 1, Ref, 3-5



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite
Tune: German
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Six (American) from Christian Worship

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Pastor's Conference

Camp Shiloh is hosting our spring conference this year. If you want to swing by for a drink and a visit with the district pastors they are finished up by 7:30 pm on Monday and there's fellowship to follow. Tuesday the conference ends by noon and the men travel home.

Grace Outreach Event

We're planning another event for children and families this spring – Grace Fun Day. It's planned for Saturday, May 4th. Please speak with Mike Jensen if you have any questions, and let him know if you can help out and participate. We'll need plenty of volunteers to carry this event off.

Bible Classes

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – 1 Corinthians on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Exodus on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month (10:30 am at Grace) with the men's and women's lunch out to follow at 11:30 am. The Discovering Grace class on Christian doctrine is available to anyone interested, speak with Pastor to arrange a time.

A Look at our Church Library

Whatever is True by William Woodington

Commands like “do not worry” and “do not fear” often grace the pages of Scripture whenever God or one of His messengers visits an ordinary believer. For Christians struggling with anxiety, these phrases may appear to be more of a challenge than a comfort. Although books on anxiety can be found in any store, many of them tell readers to help themselves. How can sufferers find strength on their own? Author William Woodington takes a different approach to handling anxiety by reminding believers that all of their help comes from the Lord.

Whatever Is True equips readers with numerous Bible passages to help them face anxiety with the truth of the gospel. Armed with a new perspective on suffering and assurance of God's love, those facing anxiety will discover an unending source of peace and strength throughout the book. *(NPH review)*

Hosanna's Graduation & Halldorson Open House

Dear Grace Family, you are all invited to join us in celebrating Hosanna's high school graduation. While Wisconsin is a long way to go to attend her *actual* graduation, you can view the ceremony on May 25th at 10am here - <https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/specialservices>.

You are also invited to our home for a post graduation Open House! Come on over to Halldorson Hacienda on Sunday, June 2 from 1-4 pm. We are at 245 Private Road 2714 in Mt. Pleasant. If you've never been to our place and plan on coming, please ask us ahead of time for directions just to make sure you make it to the right place. (GPS can get it wrong.) Please RSVP to Rachel for the gate code.

Hosanna is planning on attending Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN in the fall. She'd like to be a Christian Day School teacher and earn her degree in elementary education. Your support and prayers are always appreciated! *Rachel Halldorson*

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Apr. 22-23	all day	Spring Pastor's Conference (Shiloh)
Apr. 24	3:00 pm	Exodus Bible Class
Apr. 25	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
Apr. 26	10:30 am	Parables Bible Class (Grace)
Apr. 26	11:30 am	Ladies' and men's lunch out
Apr. 28	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion