

# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Did You Hear That?**

**His Path through the Valley to the House**

**MOTHER'S DAY**

**May 8, 2022**

**AS WE GATHER**



Many people in the world are deaf to God's presence and certainly to His Word. Some people refused to believe when they physically met Jesus, as in today's Gospel. Paul had to warn church leaders that opposition might even come from within, from wolves in sheep's clothing. But by the grace of God in Scripture, we hear our Good Shepherd speaking to us about His grace and mercy. John's vision of the Lamb's eternal victory lets us hear the eternal praises of saints and angels in heaven. Today is an opportunity to tell one another in word and song about our faith, asking our brothers and sisters if they also are hearing all the good news about our Shepherd. We leave to ask our friends and neighbors the same question. What joy when they may say with us, "The Lord is my shepherd too!" It is Good Shepherd Sunday, and the familiar twenty-third Psalm is echoed throughout our worship. Our Lord went through the valley of the shadow of death in our place, leading from death to eternal life. There is work to do before we get to eternity, for following our Shepherd entails confessing our faith even when death's shadow falls on us. It means vigilance against wolves attacking amid Christ's flock, as Paul warns in the First Reading. But in his vision, John tells us that Christ is now the victorious Lamb on His eternal throne. We can be confident that what we believe by faith we shall know by experience in the unending joy of the Father's house.

## ✂ PREPARATION ✂

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

God of all Living, we gather to open our hearts to You trusting that You will welcome us with open arms. We come to worship You. The One who leads us through times of trial; the One who supports us in sorrow and struggle; the One who is beside us when all is bleak. Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for mothers everywhere. We give thanks for their love, care, concern, and compassion. We lift up to You especially those who have struggled in their roles as mothers, where the path has not been smooth. We pray for those whose mothers perhaps failed in any way. Bring hope in the midst of their lives, whether as mothers or as children. For those relationships that are strained, grant reconciliation. Where there is pain, bring the healing of Your grace and mercy. May our own hearts of love extend to all mothers everywhere; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

### **WELCOME:**

We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need. We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases. Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church on this special Mother's Day. A day to give honor and recognition to all mothers, whether they are biological or spiritual mothers. It is a day to thank them for their love, and care, and support throughout the years. Let's worship together!

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

## **INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 23:1, 6b; Revelation 7:17*

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd;

**People: I shall not want.**

Pastor: For the Lamb in the midst of the throne

**People: will be their shepherd,**

Pastor: and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**People: And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Lord, our God,

**People: we confess that we have strayed from hearing the voice of Your Son, our Shepherd, who went**

**through death to eternal life for us. We have failed to trust in You fully. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us and renew in us faith and trust. Grant us to hear anew our Shepherd's voice and to follow wherever He leads, until we see Him with You in Your eternal house.**

**Pastor:** Fellow sheep within Christ's fold, our Lord Jesus was God's sacrificial Lamb and has gone through death, paying for the sins of all people, and He now reigns in eternity. Therefore, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

**Pastor:** **I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.**

**HYMN** "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" *TLH 648 Sts. 1-2*

1 I am Jesus' little lamb, ever glad at heart I am; For my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need, and well provides me, loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my Staff and Stay. When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me; When I thirst, He bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Pastor: 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.

**People: I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.**

### **KYRIE**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

**People: Christ, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us

**People: and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

### **MOTHER'S DAY READING**

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,

**People: 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;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **MOTHER'S DAY READING**

**FIRST READING**      *Acts 20:17–35*      (Paul commends the word of grace to the church overseers as they care for the flock.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Leader: Christ has risen from the dead.

**People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

Leader: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**People: He has put all things under His feet.**

## MOTHER'S DAY READING

**EPISTLE** *Revelation 7:9–17* (On the heavenly throne, John sees the Lamb who has conquered death and become the Shepherd.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

**Pastor:** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**People:** Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:22–30* (Jesus affirms that no one following His voice can be snatched from Him. He and the Father are one.)

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

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

**(The Gospel is read.)**

**Leader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SOLO**                    **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**SERMON**

**SOLO**                    **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**(WE BRING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING TO THE LORD)**

**Lighting of Memorial Candle**

**CREED** Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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 *Psalm 23***

**Leader:** Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world,  
and all people in their various conditions.

We pray for those who do not listen to the voice of the  
Good Shepherd, asking the Holy Spirit to give them  
opportunity to come to faith and join us in saying:

**People:** **The LORD is my shepherd.**

**Leader:** We pray for all who lack the food, clothing, and shelter  
that they need for a fully human life, asking our Father  
in heaven to meet their needs using His caring people,  
including ourselves, for we are confident:

**People:** **I shall not want.**

**Leader:** We pray for those falsely imprisoned or denied true  
justice, asking our Lord to free them and open doors of  
opportunity for them, as He so graciously has done for  
us:

**People:** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Leader: We pray for all who are depressed in spirit or unsure of God's will for them, asking the Holy Spirit to lift them up and guide them, that with us they may rejoice to say:

**People:** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Leader: We pray for those who are facing sudden crises or long-term ills, and all who are grieving the loss of loved ones, [*including . . .*], asking our risen Lord to lift their eyes to His eternal home so that they may each declare:

**People:** 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.

Leader: We pray for first responders and police at home and for armed forces deployed, asking our Father in heaven to guide and protect them, and for all who grow crops and tend herds that He would bless them with bountiful harvests so that they may thank Him, praying:

**People:** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Leader: Finally, we pray for ourselves and all who gather around Word and Sacrament, that the Holy Spirit would keep us firm in the faith so that we may joyfully profess:

**People:** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

## **RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS**

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who sent His own Lamb to rescue us, the ✠ Son, whose voice we hear as our Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit, who nourishes our faith and trust in all the promises of God—be upon you, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN**      “God Love The World So That He Gave” TLH 245

1 God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save That all who would in Him believe should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the Ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All that confide in Him alone are built on this chief Cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die, His Son with saving grace is nigh, His Spirit in the Word doth teach how man the blessed goal may reach.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins which thou hast done, and, justified by Jesus' blood, Thy Baptism grants the highest good.

5 If thou be sick, if death draw near, this truth thy troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To Thee, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

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



*“Her children  
rise up and call her  
blessed.”*

*(Prov. 31:28)*