



The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Resurrection Hymn. "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" LSB #711

Text: Hymns for the Young, 4th ed. London, 1836, alt.

Tune: "BRADBURY"

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Your tender care;
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us, We are Yours;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us, We are Yours.
2. We are Yours, in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, us children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, us children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to You;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.

4. Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You hast loved us, love us still.

Text: Psalm 23; John 10:1-16; Eph. 2:4-5; Rom 5:8

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DIVINE SERVICE Setting One

LSB pages 151ff

Invocation.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Confession and Absolution.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Response: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Response:

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 neighbor 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.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe

in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: Amen.

Introit/Psalm.

Psalm 95:1-3,6-7a; John 10:14-15b (ESV)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, ...
And I lay down my life for the sheep.

**1 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

**6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

**7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

**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.**

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, ...
And I lay down my life for the sheep.

Kyrie.

Verse: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Verse: For the peace from above
and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Verse: 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.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Verse: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Verse: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Response: Amen.

Hymn of Praise.

Verse: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.

Response:

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father:

**We worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

**Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the World;
have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the**

Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

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

Response: Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture.**Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Verse: This is the Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual. *Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and honor. He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Verse: This is the Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (Romans 6:9 ESV)

Jesus says:

"I Am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."

(John 10:14 ESV)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the 24th chapter.

Response: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 10:1-10 (ESV)

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Verse: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day. “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LSB #709*Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77**Tune: “ST. COLUMBIA”**Tune: Irish c. 18th cent.; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958*

1. The king of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine for ever.
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no I'll
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house for ever.

*Text: Psalm 23; John 10:11; Luke 15:4-7; Rev. 7:17**Text & Tune: Public domain***Sermon.****“Like Sheep Returning to Their Shepherd”****1 Peter 2:24-25**

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Shepherd and Overseer of your souls is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter runs with a risen Word, running from the empty tomb, running past the Ascension of our Lord, running to the Day of Pentecost—forty days of resurrection joy! Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the twenty-ninth day in the resurrection celebration. Today is the Sunday of the Good Shepherd who never will forsake us. Forty-eight days of coronavirus lock down has not diminished the joy of Jesus. Our Good Shepherd cares. He alone provides. He alone protects. “Savior like a Shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care.”

I am a shepherd in Shepherdsville. I live and breathe and serve in Shepherdsville. This I know because God has gathered a flock of sheep in Shepherdsville. Through this flock God has called a sheep to be a shepherd in Shepherdsville. This is not unlike God who sends His Son to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Lamb of God has died. The Lamb of God is risen. The Lamb of God will come again. He is also the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. So as Christ is both Lamb and Shepherd; so is this Pastor both a lamb and a shepherd. I am a sheep who has been called by God to shepherd sheep who live and breathe and serve in Shepherdsville.

There is a peculiar saying that God gave to the Shepherd King David some thirty centuries ago, “We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” (Psalm 95:7) I would have expected God to call us the sheep of His pasture and the people of His hand. But, he calls us to be His people of His pasture and His sheep of His hand. Evidently, I and others who follow Jesus are sheep, made by His hand, redeemed by His hand, and known by the scars in His nail-pierced hand. He now lives, to shepherd His people. He lives indeed. Alleluia!

I once lived and breathed and served in another town that was not Shepherdsville. In that town an old goat stood up and boldly said that he and others like him were not “just sheep who were just going to blindly follow what I said.” We did not see eye to eye. So I said, “That we all like sheep have gone astray and it is not safe to trust even my word if my word does not agree with God’s Word.” But, the old goat would not be shepherded. The old goat did not recognize God’s Word and would not trust any word. He and others like him were head strong, and would not have any other head other than a mind that they themselves made up. With a self-made head they saw it their purpose to head-butt any word that was not theirs. Goats do not follow the shepherd through the door way to the fold. They see no need to die to sin. So they have no part in living to righteousness.

In the Gospel of John, the tenth chapter, Jesus warns against the old goat, and the wolves that wander in from the wilderness. ¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.” ... Thieves come by stealth and subtlety, not by violence and force. They come by deceit, before the overseer comes. They steal away the sheep by another voice, offering another way. Robbers on the other hand come by violence and force, not by stealth and subtlety. They come by demands and bold bluster. They beat and kill. Jesus says, ⁸ “All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.” And again Jesus says, ¹⁰ “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” Sheep follow Jesus.

Jesus gives abundant life. How you may ask? He gives His life, by enduring sorrow, by suffering unjustly. Peter the apostle says, “This is a gracious thing in the sight of God.”

The Good Shepherd provides and protects. “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.”

Jesus did not give payback for wrong doing, but offered His back to the scourge and the cross, to pay for my wrong doing. When I suffer, I often can point to the reason for my suffering; I often see what I have done wrong. I am reminded of what I failed to do right. My grievous sin was laid upon the Lamb.

The Lamb groaned under my load. Like the thieves on the cross, I am only getting what I deserve. Jesus has done nothing wrong. “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

Here is Good News: “By His wounds I have been healed.” And now “I follow in His footsteps.” I am a shepherd in Shepherdsville; but, I am not the Good Shepherd. I am an under shepherd serving under the Good Shepherd. This I know because God’s people call me “Pastor.” This I know because I know my Shepherd’s voice, and I follow Him. I will not listen to the voice of another shepherd; for, there is no other shepherd who is Good. God alone is good. God is the I AM. This means that I am NOT ... God.

Thirty-five centuries ago, before the Exodus, Moses of Egypt was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. “Exodus 3:3 And Moses said, ‘I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.’” ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”

God pulled the barefoot prophet off the mountain and sent him to Pharaoh. Justice would have Pharaoh to let God’s people go. But the old goat was head strong. His mind was made up. Not blood in the River, nor frogs, gnats, flies, dead livestock, boils, hail, locusts, or darkness would make the old goat see. Even the death of the firstborn was lost on Pharaoh.

People have plenty of their own sin and for these sins we suffer justly; all of us are guilty save one. But the suffering of a people for the blind sins of a leader is shameful. Worldly tyrants live at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of their people.

But not so with the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. And His Sheep know His voice. And they follow Him, even when the world speaks and does all sorts of evil against the sheep for the sake of the Shepherd. Jesus says in Matthew’s Gospel, the last beatitude: “¹¹ ‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Peter says, ¹⁹“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.”

Matthew the Apostle (26:31) quotes Zechariah the Prophet (13:7) “Strike the Shepherd and you scatter the Sheep.” Indeed all fell away at the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus. But, the great Shepherd of the sheep is risen! The Lamb of God is risen indeed! And He gathers us today into His fold.

¹ Peter 2:24 “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

He is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Psalm 23 (ESV)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

**He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

⁴ 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.**

**⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,**

**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.**

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.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, in Your Word and by the Holy Spirit, shepherd us through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Make Your people joyful in their work and patient in their service. Sustain all medical, law enforcement, and defense personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Collect for the Word.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

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.

Offering.—Send your offering to God by supporting your house of worship

Offertory

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving.
And will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation
And will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now
In the presence of all His people,
In the courts of the Lord's house,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Benedicamus.

Verse: Let us bless the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Benediction.

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.

Sending Hymn.

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB #740

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: "WEIL ICH JESU SCHLAFLEIN BIN"

1. I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs 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.
3. Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text: Psalm 23; Is. 40:1; 49:10; John 21:15

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