



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus is the Good Shepherd



MAY 3, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

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Prayer Before Worship: *Lord Jesus you are the good shepherd. During these troubling times lead me to know the peace and security of your care. Guide me to the still waters of your Holy Word and refresh my soul. Amen.*

Opening Hymn: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia" CW # 150

EASTER

150 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day;
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed,
 4 Christ, who once for sin - ners bled,



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way;
 Sin - less in the sin - ners' stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.
 Now the first-born from the dead,



See the place where he was laid;
 "Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry; Al - le - lu - ia!
 While, in strange and awe - full strife,
 Throned in end - less might and pow'r,



Praise him for the ran - som paid.
 Now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Met to - geth - er death and life.
 Lives and reigns for - ev - er - more.

Text: Latin sequence, 11th century, abr.; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.

Tune: LLANFAIR (77 77 with Alleluias) Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821.

SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW page 38

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

C: **And also with you.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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 him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON - *Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a,51-60*

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia.

These men began to argue with Stephen. ² To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! ⁵¹ You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.” ⁵⁴ When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

REDEEMER

375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
 3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
 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
 yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der
 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.
 gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
 my de - light; My cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Your goodness fails me never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 Within your house forever!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

Alleluia Response (sung)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Sermon Text: Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd

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.**

Offering: *Please mail in your offering to the church office as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

To the Risen Christ, to Praise and Thank Him for His Many Blessings

O Jesus, our risen and ever living Savior, we praise you with our whole being, for you have done wonderful things for us. At the cross we find full forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation; there you suffered and died in our place. At the empty tomb we find full comfort, joy, and hope; your resurrection proves that you are God's Son, whose sacrifice has been accepted for our transgressions. You also promise that you will guide us and protect us as our Good Shepherd through this life until you bring us to our eternal home. All glory, honor, and praise to you, O Savior, for the victory over death, the devil, sin, and hell you have won for us! We further praise you for your Word of truth, by which we have been made wise unto salvation through faith.

Our Lord and Savior, we praise you for the privilege of prayer which God has given us in your name; for your intercession for us at God's throne; for your never-failing presence in our lives and constant protection; for your gift to us of the Spirit; for the washing of our sins in Baptism, and our communion with you in the Holy Supper; for your help in troubles, as well as your healing of our illnesses; and for your

comfort to ease our sorrows. We thank and praise you for the home that you are preparing for us in heaven and your promise to come again and receive us to yourself; for the hope of the resurrection from the dead; and for the forgiveness of all our sins and the hope of everlasting life. For these and all other blessings may our tongues be loosed to speak and sing your praise both now and in eternity.

Precious Redeemer, through the Spirit fill us with a desire to feed spiritually upon you, the true Bread of Life. Make your Word, through which you come to us, sweeter than honey to our taste, and let it nourish our faith. Make yourself known as the Bread of Life to the spiritually starving nations of the world as you cause the gospel to be preached to them. Oh, that the whole world would learn to praise your name by receiving your salvation and by trusting you for every good and needful blessing! To the glory of your saving name, we ask these things, 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.**

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: "Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep" - CW # 436

TRUST

436

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, Who your
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand; None can
3 By your blood our souls were bought; By your
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; We with
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, Join th' as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, Safe we wake and
take us from your hand. Speak— we hear— at
life sal - va - tion wrought; By your light our
joy will fol - low on Till the work of
sem - bly of the blest, Gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, Guard - ed still by you.
your com - mand, We will fol - low you.
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
grace is done, There to live with you.
ter - nal rest In the fold with you.

Announcements - View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230

St. John's Renville
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PO Box 416
Renville, MN 56284

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Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(temporary mailing address)

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon.

If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 320-826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

Important Notice Concerning Worship and Bible Class

Worship Services at all of our churches have been suspended until further notice due to heightened health concerns. With the restriction on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 outbreak we will be making use of our online streaming services as our primary way to meet. For important announcements and other details about how to stay connected to your local congregation and to God's Word visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

Please make use of local radio, television, and online ministries as we are currently unable to gather in our local congregations.

Television:

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit timeofgrace.org to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

Radio:

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources:

- wels.net - Daily devotions, (*new*) family devotions, and other bible study tools, updates and resources at our Synod's website. May God bless us as we walk together.
- timeofgrace.org - on demand worship services, blogs, daily devotions, podcasts and bible study materials available
- nph.net - order books, bible study and devotional materials, hymnals, Bibles, catechisms, and much more from the publication arm of our synod.
- forwardinchrist.net - WELS magazine now has on online presence. Stay connected with God's Word and your church body with news, updates, podcasts, videos, and more.

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

Please Call, Email, or Text for Pastoral Support

During this time of being unable to gather at our worship facilities we want to remind you that you can reach out to Pastor Kuschel for pastoral support. Be assured that Pastor Kuschel is praying for you and that he would very much welcome your call and a chance to talk to you and pray with you over the phone. Remember that we are his Church and God cares for his children wherever you are. ***The LORD watches over you... He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. - Psalm 121***

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs Learning Center as our next preschool teacher. We give thanks to God for the way that he care for his Church as he provides pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others to carry out the gospel ministry. May God bless Louisa in this time of transition. We look forward to welcoming her sometime in July. May God bless her work among us and may we be a blessing to her.

Thank you for your continued support

We would like to thank our members for their continued support of our ministries especially during the last few weeks. May we continue to support one another and encourage each other all the more as we strive to share the good news of Jesus to our local communities and throughout the world.

Renville County COVID-19 Newsletter

Renville County has been producing a COVID-19 Newsletter. Please follow the link to keep up to date with tips, suggestions, and news from the county. <https://www.renvillecountymn.com/newslist.php>