



**The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday**

**Sunday, April 25, 2021 - 4:30pm**

**Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover NC**

## PRELUDE

*We stand and face the rear of the nave.*

**OPENING SENTENCES** *1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P By this we know love,

**C that He laid down His life for us.**

P “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

**C The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**

P Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

**C And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom  
He has given us.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Shepherd of Tender Youth”



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in  
2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -  
3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -  
4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,  
5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -  
du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You  
pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our  
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O  
prais - es high And joy - ful sing: In - fants and



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing  
did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace  
mor - tal pain None calls You in vain;  
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word  
all the thron, Who to the Church be - long,



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.  
You so might save our race And give us life.  
Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.  
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.  
U - nite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

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## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 23; John 10:11*

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**C Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

P He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**C Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

P 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.

**C We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**C As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

**P** Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ’s laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word”



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## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Risen Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. They are Yours, and nothing will snatch them from Your hand. In the love You've shown and the perfect love we know through Your Spirit, empower Your flock to reach others, that all may be guided by Your shepherding grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Acts 4:1-12**

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

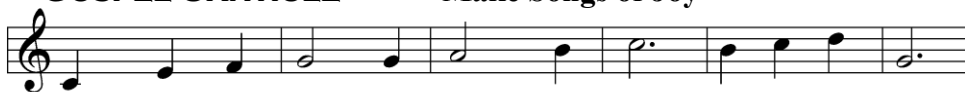
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*We stand.*

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

### “Make Songs of Joy”



1 Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Our life was pur - chased by His loss; Al - le - lu - ia!  
△ 6 For this be praised the Son who rose, Al - le - lu - ia!



He lives a - gain who once was dead! Al - le - lu - ia!  
He died our death up - on the cross. Al - le - lu - ia!  
The Fa - ther, and the Ho - ly Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia!

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## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 10:11-18**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### C Glory to You, O Lord.

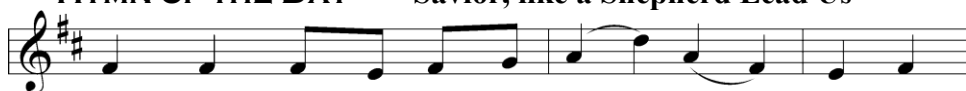
[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### C Praise to You, O Christ.

*We sit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and  
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -  
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

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**SERMON**

“In Your Lifetime”

Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**



*We sit.*

## **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

℞ The following have been instructed and are prepared to make public  
their profession of Christ and reaffirm their baptisms:

T

**Ellie Belle Adams**

**Kade Jacob Heath**

**Connor McCree Hefner**

**Jennifer Nicole Montgomery**

**Ava Grace Noell**

**Abbigail Jasmine Pruitt**

**Sonny Ayden Pruitt**

**Sean Ray Roth**

T

*We stand.*

## **PREFACE**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

℞ The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

℞ Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, almighty God, for You sent Your Son into this world to embody perfect love by laying down His life for His sheep and taking it up again on Easter in glorious victory over all we ever might fear. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Fed, nourished, and forgiven by Your Means of Grace, we lie down in green pastures and are led by still waters. Restore our soul on paths of righteousness. Be with us even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, comforted by Your rod and staff. Prepare our table in the presence of enemies, and as we follow You, our Good Shepherd, grant goodness and mercy to follow us all the days of our life until we dwell in Your house forever. To You alone be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*We sit.*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*We stand.*

## **DISMISSAL**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** By this we know love,

**C** that He laid down His life for us.

**P** “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

**C** The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**P** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C Amen.**

**P** 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 **T** give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

### **“How Firm a Foundation”**



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose  
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,  
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.  
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

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## POSTLUDE