

Morning Prayer - 4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Opening Hymn #520 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me.

O Come, Let us Worship.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Christ our Passover

1 Corinthians 5:7–8; Romans 6:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:20–22

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia!

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia!

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a human came death,
by a human has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

Children's Talk

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

Gradual Hymn

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with Him always.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:1–10)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with Him always.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Shepherding God, in a dangerous and uncertain world, let us hear your voice as we come and go through your gate.

We pray for the whole church, that we may be devoted to your Word, and to universal fellowship, and being generous to all who have need. As we find new ways to meet together, let us not lose sight of the community we have in You and let us find creative ways to stay connected with our church.

We pray for the earth, for green pastures and still waters, that we may restore them to the goodness and purity that they had at the time of creation.

We pray for the people of the world, their nations and leaders, that your wisdom and peace may govern all, so that no one will fear.

We pray for all those in need, for those in want, those ill and those dying, that we may be the banquet that you set before them as we anoint them, feed them, and comfort them in your name.

We pray for healthcare workers and those who continue to care for our loved ones when we cannot. Give them strength and protect them and their families.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love. May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence.

Blessed are you great Shepherd, who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gives us goodness and mercy, leads us down right paths, and restores our souls. Amen.

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Dear friends in Christ, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

**All:** Most merciful God, we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:  
 The way a - head is dark and dif - fi - cult to see.  
 O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:  
 All will be well if on - ly you will shel-ter me.

1. Shepherd and sheep, my God and I:  
 to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.  
 You gave me rest by quiet springs  
 and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

2. Yet now I tread a diff'rent way;  
 Death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.  
 I cannot find your peaceful place.  
 But dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face.

3. I will look back in days to come  
 and realize your faithfulness has led me home.  
 Within your house I'll find my peace,  
 trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me.

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**Collect**

O God of peace,  
 who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 that great shepherd of the sheep,  
 by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
 make us perfect in every good work to do your will,  
 and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come, your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn #585 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Postlude

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.*

*Special thanks to Shannon Kerr for helping to sing the hymns.*

*This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.*

*And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON  
LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION  
Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee*

*Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at  
<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>*

*Prayers from Feast on the Word volume 3 Worship Companion*