

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25th, 2021

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

Prelude

Opening Hymn #211 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The Lord of life is risen today! Sing songs of praise along his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm 23

Refrain *My Shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I want.
God leads me in green pastures and beside quiet waters.

2 The Lord restores my soul and guides me in the right,
event though I walk near death, nothing evil shall I fear.

3 In the sight of my foes you prepare a feast for me.
You anoint my head with oil, and my cup overflows.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Gradual Hymn #520 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-3)*

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

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.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:11-18).

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. I have other sheep that do not belong to 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 in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Gradual Hymn #520 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (vs. 4-6)

4 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.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy 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 forever!

Sermon

Dr. Alison Hurlburt

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayer Responses *My Shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.*

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!"

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the Lord may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That God will provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by God's power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That God may reveal the light of Her presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That God may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon Her people, that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may name their remembered dead.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence for reflection.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;

in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

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

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and 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.**

Closing Hymn: *Saviour A New Commandment I Give Unto You*

1 A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

2 By this may all know that you are my disciples: that you have love one for another.

3 By this may all know that you are my disciples: that you have love one for another.

Postlude

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.

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

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