



## **“Savior and Loving Shepherd, Lead, I Follow You!”**

April 30, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am  
Christian Education: 11:00 am

**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

James N. Proeber, Pastor  
Wisconsin Synod

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### **Welcome to Our Redeemer**

There are no more precious or comforting words than what David wrote in his “shepherd psalm.” He drew from his own personal experience as a shepherd, and as a child of the Lord, to remind God’s people what their Shepherd would do for them. Nothing has changed, nor will it ever change. How blessed we are to be able to say with every confidence, the Lord—my Savior—is my Shepherd.

### **For Parents with Small Children**

There are children’s service folders available in the basket by the front door. Please pick one up as you enter. There is also a “cry room” and rest rooms in the fellowship hall. After you go through the doors of the church, turn left. In addition, you may watch the service on the monitor in the fellowship hall.

## The Order of Worship

### **Pre-Service Music and Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**      “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”  
*Christian Worship 150*

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!  
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!

See the place where he was laid; Alleluia!  
Praise him for the ransom paid. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!  
Sinless in the sinners' stead. Alleluia!  
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!  
Now he lives no more to die. Alleluia!

Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled. Alleluia!  
While, in strange and awful strife, Alleluia!  
Met together death and life. Alleluia!

Christ, who once for sinners slain, Alleluia!  
Now the first-born from the dead, Alleluia!  
Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!  
Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!

### **The Invocation**

P: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God  
the Holy Spirit.



C: A — men!

### **The Confession of Sins**

P: Dearly loved in the Lord, through our Good Shepherd's gracious invitation and the blessing of his faithful work, you and I can come into his fold and live as the sheep under his care. At the same time, we recognize that we continue to wander from him. It is because of our disobedience and rebellion that we deserve his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words**

and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



C: Lord, have mer—cy on us. Christ, have mer—cy



on us. Lord, have mer—cy on us.

**Absolution**

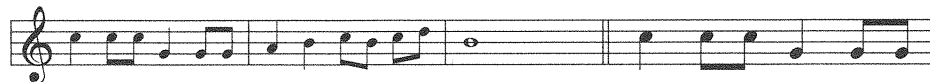
*God's Forgiveness Proclaimed*

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, our Good Shepherd, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A — men!

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.




C: Glo - ry to God in the



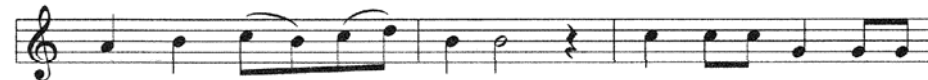
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.




Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



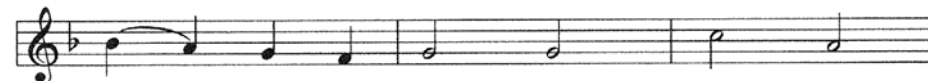
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



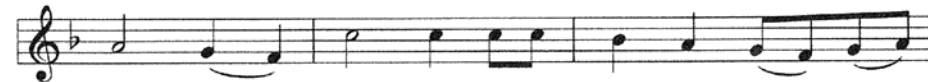
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



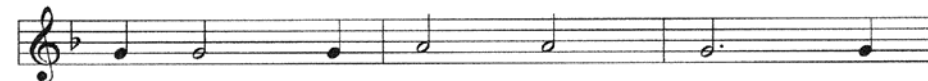
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



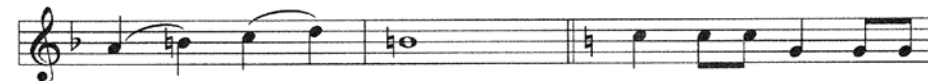
world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -



ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,  
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. Glo - ry to God in the  
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

**Prayer for the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And al— so with you.

P: Dearest Jesus, our risen Savior, because of your undeserved mercy and compassion, you are our Good Shepherd. It was your

great love that moved you to come into this world to live, die, and rise again that we may have life with you now, and forever in your heavenly fold. Good Shepherd, we owe you our heartfelt thanks and praise for all you have done for us, as well as what you have done for all who were lost and straying. Continue to comfort and cheer us, to refresh and renew us, to encourage and strengthen us while we journey through this life to the life you have prepared for us in heaven. Hear us and bless us always, merciful Savior and Shepherd.



C: A — men!

## The Lessons from God's Word

*"Goodness and Mercy will Sustain Me—Always!"*

### **The Power of the Resurrection**

*Acts 2:42–47*

<sup>42</sup>They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

<sup>46</sup>Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Psalm for the Day**

*Psalm 23*

*(the congregation will sing the printed stanzas of*

*"Christ be My Leader," following each portion of the psalm)*

P:           The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.  
              He causes me to lie down in green pastures.  
              He leads me beside the quiet waters.  
              He restores my soul.  
              He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

***Congregation sings***                                       “Christ Be My Leader”  
*Christian Worship 367 st. 1*

Christ be my leader by night as by day,  
Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future his care;  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

P:   Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow death,  
          I will fear no evil, for you are with me.  
          Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
          You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.  
          You drench my head with oil. My cup is overflowing.

***Congregation sings***                                       “Christ Be My Leader”  
*Christian Worship 367 st. 2*

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.  
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand.  
Doubt cannot daunt me—in Jesus I stand!

P:           Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me  
              all the days of my life,  
              And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

***Congregation sings***                                       “Christ Be My Leader”  
*Christian Worship 367 st. 3*

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.



Nor darkness nor doubting, nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation—with Jesus I reign!

**Epistle**

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

<sup>19</sup>For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

<sup>21</sup>Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Verse of the Day**

P: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed!**

**Alleluia!**



C: Al - le - lu — ia! Al - le - lu — ia! Al - le - lu — ia!

## The Gospel

P: The “Good News” about our Savior is recorded in the tenth chapter of John, reading from the first verse.



C: Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup>“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup>“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: This is the Word of our God.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## The Confession of Faith

*(We unite in the words of the Apostles Creed)*

**C: 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.**

**Hymn of the Day**

**“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”**

*Christian Worship 374*

My shepherd will supply my need —  
Jehovah is his name.  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed  
Beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand’ring spirit back  
When I forsake his ways  
And leads me, for his mercy’s sake,  
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,  
His presence is my stay;  
One word of his supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
His hand, in sight of all my foes,

Will still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows;  
His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
Oh, may his house be my abode  
And all my works be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest  
While others go and come,  
No more a stranger or a guest  
But like a child at home.

**Sermon**

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

**“Jesus, Our Faithful Shepherd in Dark Valleys.”**

Dark valleys of unjust suffering will come to us  
The faithful love of our Shepherd will sustain us

**“Create in Me”**

*Psalm 51*



**C: Cre- ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-**



**new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-**



**way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho- ly Spir - it**



**from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of your sal-va -**



tion, and up—hold me with your free Spir-it. A—men.

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

### **Prayer for the Lord’s Blessing**

P: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the Gospel, and we have feasted on the green pastures of your Holy Word. Bless us through that Word. Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next.

**C: What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for your sheep, even wandering and rebellious sheep like us.**

P: Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us the times we have strayed from you and from the loving call of your voice. Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one. When Satan comes in the sheep’s clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us with your truth.

**C: How great is your love for us that you daily guide and protect us with your rod and your staff, and lead us on the path of righteousness.**

P: Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful under-shepherds, who proclaim your death and resurrection as they serve the souls in their care. Give every minister of the Gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.

**C: Your compassion is new every morning. Your blessings are without number. Lead us to rejoice in everything you and your faithful servants do on our behalf.**

P: Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms and embrace them with the warmth of your love.

Preserve them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy to their lives.

**C: Accept our love and thanks for filling our lives with goodness and mercy. Accept our devotion for making us sheep of your fold and heirs of your kingdom.**

P: Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your "other sheep." Let your inviting voice be heard throughout the world. Bless the work of everyone who carries your good news. Give all of us the zeal and courage to share the blessings of your tender love. Then, Eternal Shepherd, when our days have come to an end, and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home. There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever.

*Special Requests and Prayers*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*(the congregation will join with the pastor)*

**C: 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen!**

**Hymn**

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"  
*Christian Worship 375*

The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;

I nothing lack if I am his,  
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
My Savior gently leads me;  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feeds me.

Confused 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 you, dear Lord, beside me;  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,  
A banquet there bestowing;  
Your oil of welcome, my delight;  
My cup is overflowing!

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

### **Closing Reading and Prayer**

P: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

P: Gracious Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you and to receive your blessing. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in your paths of righteousness that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Grant, O Lord:

That the lips which here have sung your praise —  
may continue to glorify you in the world;  
That the ears which have heard your truth proclaimed —  
may be open always to your Word and closed to hatred,  
discord, and deception;  
That the tongues which have freely confessed your name —  
may always speak the truth in love and without fear;  
That all of us who have worshiped together today —  
may be united in true love for each other  
as you have loved us.



C: A ——— men!

### **Benediction**

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

P: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him—through Jesus Christ—to whom be glory forever and ever.



C: A— men. A— men. A — men.

### **Closing Hymn**

“The Day of Resurrection”  
*Christian Worship 166*

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad,



The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,  
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful; let earth her song begin.  
Let all the world keep triumph and all that that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen; our joy shall have no end.

### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Announcements**

**Today**—*Welcome in our Savior and Shepherd's blessed name!*

What a privilege it is to know he takes us into his arms and carries us through every challenge and every dark valley as he leads us to life in heaven. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book or a visitor card, and come again—soon!

- Everyone is invited to stay after the service to enjoy a cup of coffee and the gift of friendship in the Lord
- Bible Class will begin at 11:00 and will focus on the Gospel lesson from John 10. Jesus is our true and only Good Shepherd.
- We thank Pastor Steve Degner for leading our worship and Bible Study this morning. He is substituting for Pastor Proeber who is in Arizona. May the Lord's richest blessings with Pastor Degner in his retirement.

**Thursday**—Pastor Proeber will return this late afternoon. If you need to get in contact with him, please use his cell number.

- Handbell choir practice at 7:00 pm

**Friday**—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm

**Saturday**—Cleaning: Justin Schroeder

- Mowing beginning April 30th—J. Brown

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>—In person worship and live-streaming at 9:30 am.** When Jesus died and rose it was to offer us the forgiveness of sins and the confidence of life in heaven. He also gave us foundation upon which we can build our hopes for this life and our hope of heaven. What makes this foundation so precious is that it is built to last.

- The Lord’s Supper will be offered in this service. You may register to receive it today.
- Christian Education will be offered following the service. In a powerful proclamation that equated himself with God the Father, Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” These words are precious for our relationship to God and our way to heaven.

### Thank You

To Alan Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for monitoring the audio and video of the live-stream; to Pastor Steve Degner for proclaiming the peace which comes through our Good Shepherd.

### Acknowledgements

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

770 Vala Drive

Santa Barbara, California 93111

*www.orlcsb.net*

*For more information, contact*

*pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com*

James N. Proeber, Pastor

805.967.1128 – Office & 805.967.3570 – Home

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