

Service of Prayer and Proclamation

May 3, 2020 • The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
Charleston, WV

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 291

Brief time of silence to think on God's Word and the sin we need to confess

C O almighty God, merciful Father, we poor miserable sinners, confess unto You all our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But we are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to us, poor, sinful beings.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 291

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Easter 4

P Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23

The LORD is my | shepherd;*
I | shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.
He re- | stores my soul.*
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.
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.
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 for- | ever.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

P A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

P A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure; this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

P The Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Bidden by our Shepherd, let us come before His throne of grace in prayer on behalf of all people according to their needs. *Brief silence*

Blessed Shepherd, You established Your Church with Your sacrificial death and mighty resurrection. Grant us devotion, that we may abide in the teaching of the apostles and honor the fellowship of the Church. Guard us against all enemies of Your Word and keep us within the care of Your flock and staff forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Shepherd, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your people. Grant to us good government and good leaders who will honor Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty against all threats. Give them wisdom and moderation in their pandemic response. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, You loved the world enough to shed Your blood, and You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Inspire and equip Your Church and her ministers to speak faithfully and boldly Your Word and bless all those who serve us on Your behalf. Bless us especially when we are persecuted for the faith or suffer for the sake of the good that honors You and is obedient to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Shepherd, You have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, right and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and in service to the Gospel and that the arts may testify to Your saving death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice calls us to You in time of need. Hear us on behalf of all those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve those whom they love, and to whom death draws near. We pray especially for those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in the day of trouble, and hope of the new and everlasting life to come. Be with the unemployed and the distraught and return them to health and livelihood. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Shepherd, You seek out those who have fallen and restore the sinner to repentance. Send forth Your Spirit to rekindle faith in the hearts of those who have fallen away from the truth or who have been overcome by temptation and sin. Bring good from ill and increase in all the hunger for Your Word and a recognition of our need, that many may be gathered into Your flock when church doors are opened wide again. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giving Shepherd, You have not withheld anything from us but emptied Yourself fully upon the cross that we might be saved. Move our hearts to such devotion and teach us such generosity, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and serve our neighbor in need with the resources You have supplied to us so abundantly. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, You set Your table among us in the presence of our enemies. Hear us because we are beset by so many false voices and tempted by so many false gospels. Help us to hear Your voice and to abide safely in Your Word that remains forever. Equip us with Your Spirit so that we may receive Your body and blood with faith and a repentant heart. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O great Good Shepherd, we pray You to hear Your sheep and answer our prayers with mercy, granting us those things profitable for us and our salvation and keeping from us all things harmful; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FOURTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

Answer: God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Answer: Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

THE FIFTH PETITION

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

Answer: We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So, we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Thus, we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**☐ Our Father which 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.**

BENEDICTION (Aaronic)

- 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 ✝ give you peace. Amen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Quotes from Small Catechism: Paul Timothy McCain, ed., Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 331 - 334

PRAYER LIST

Herb Pauley (father of Tina Clark) recovering from a fall requiring stitches to his arm and staples to his head.

Zach (family friend of Jennifer McIntosh and Sara Shaver) underwent open-heart surgery and is improving but still in critical condition.

Jeff & Tina Gilbert (son and daughter-in-law of Sue Reed) accepted an 8-week nursing assignment in the Bronx, NY

Mary Beth Blake (daughter of Judy Knox) was ill with possible COVID-19, is feeling some better while awaiting results of testing.

Leah (sister of Lindsey Beckman) recovering from hand surgery.

Jeff and Cara Wade (friends of Tina Clark) Jeff is scheduled for surgery Tuesday. Facing many worries including employment concerns.

Ali (friend of Kelly Reimert) was scheduled for surgery Tuesday to implant a heart monitoring device.

Family of Lorrie (friend of Jeff and Tina Clark) passed into eternity.

Ruth Lancaster Family friend of Judy Knox tested positive for COVID-19

Liz Albitz, Betty and Bob, Ed & Kim Booten, Billie Brisendine, Catherine, Teresa Cisco, Linda Cooper, James Cosby, Susan and Skip Daly, Harrison and Cindy Gapter, Doris Gerke, Jim and Marlene Hanson, Jo Hartley, Roy "Hutch" Hutchison, Tom Janicki, Roy and Betty Lindmark, Marie Marcum, Jeanneane Maxon, Sandy McKinney, Bob Mitchell, Lori Nettles, Herb & Marian Pauley, Harold Reed, Thresa Robinson, Donna Ruffatto, Stu and Marcia Schwalm, Carmella Shaver, Taegan Witcher

All diagnosed with Covid-19;

All diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers;

All diagnosed with any form of cancer;

All diagnosed with any incurable (even if treatable) disease.

For our congregation - that we would pursue God's will for us as His people gathered here to bring Him glory as we make disciples being help, hope, home in the body of Christ.