

JESUS...

our true
shepherd.



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. This month Resurrection will be celebrating forty two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

The Lessons and Liturgy Today

God's people are cared for by the Good Shepherd Himself, Who laid down His Life for the sheep. He now guides us through His Word and Sacraments. He anoints us with His Spirit so that we may pass through this trouble-filled life safely; and at last come to the House of the Lord, where we will dwell in peace forever. We listen to the Shepherd's Voice; so that He might keep us on paths of righteousness for His Name's Sake. We have a calling to proclaim this Good Shepherd to those around us so that they may know His Love, Care, Mercy, and Peace.

THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2020 - GOOD SHEPHERD

PREPARING TO COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Shepherd of My Heart – arr. J. Purifoy

Harmonia Deum

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in green pastures,
He leads me to quiet streams.
My strength He refreshes, bringing honor to his
Name.

Though I walk through the valley,
with Him I am not afraid.

Refrain

The light of Your Glory goes before me on my way.
You honor me with Your Goodness,
Your Love will keep me safe.
My cup brims with blessings
from the kindness that You give.

I'm secure in Your Presence as long as I live!

Refrain

Refrain

Shepherd of my heart, I can hear You calling me.
You are there, beside me in the dark.
Holding out Your Hand, You guide me safely home again.
Close Companion, Dearest Friend, Shepherd of my heart.

To listen click <https://bit.ly/35mQAWv>

WELCOME

GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)
Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Christ is risen!

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

SONG

Better Is One Day - Matt Redman

**1. How lovely is Your Dwelling Place, O LORD Almighty,
for my soul longs and even faints for You;
For here my heart is satisfied within Your Presence;
I sing beneath the shadow of Your Wings:**

Refrain

**Better is one day in Your Courts;
better is one day in Your House;
better is one day in Your Courts
than thousands elsewhere! (repeat)**

**2. One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your Beauty,
to find You in the place Your Glory dwells
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your Beauty,
to find You in the place Your Glory dwells**

Refrain

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CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Before God and one another, we confess our sins, seeking God's Grace and Forgiveness. Father in Heaven,

C We have struggled with our own arrogance.

We have elevated our own thoughts above Your Thoughts. We have chosen our ways over Your Ways. We have done useless things. We have offended Christ, our Shepherd and Messiah.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of the Sheep, has died and risen again. By raising His Son from the dead, God the Father declares His Son's Sacrifice sufficient atonement for our sin;

and, for His Sake, declares us to be innocent and free.

Therefore, as a Called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P May He Who began this Good Work within you bring it to completion on the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

(The early church devoted themselves to the Apostles' teachings, fellowship, the breaking of bread, prayer and worship.)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM HYMN

Psalm 23

Brother James' Air – arr. E. T. Davies

Congregation and Cantus Christe Quartet

To listen click <https://bit.ly/3dcgzmx>

Choir 1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want:
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

Choir 2. My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the Paths of Blessedness,
E'en for His own Name's sake.
Within the Paths of Blessedness,
E'en for His own Name's sake.

All 3. **Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy Rod
And Staff me comfort still.
Thy Rod and Staff me comfort still.
Me comfort still.**

Choir 4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head with oil Thou dost anoint,
And my cup overflows.
My head with oil Thou dost anoint,
And my cup overflows.

**All 5. Goodness and mercy all my days
Will surely follow me;
And in my Father's heart always
My dwelling place shall be.
And in my heart for evermore
Thy dwelling place shall be.**

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SECOND READING

I Peter 2:19-25

(Christ suffered for us; and has given us an example to follow.)

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His Steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His Mouth.”

When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats.

Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him Who judges justly.

He Himself bore our sins in His Body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His Wounds you have been healed.

For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

P Christ is risen from the dead.

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

C **He has given Him dominion over the works of His Hands; He has put all things under His Feet.**

P We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

(Jesus compares Himself to a Shepherd; and to the gate of a sheep pen.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what He was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again,

“I tell you the truth, I Am the Gate for the sheep.

All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

I Am the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved.

He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bob Unger

HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

LSB 710

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
4. My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

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SERMON

Pastor. Jonathan Blanke

I Peter 2:19-25

See Sermon Outline on Page 12

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The King of Love My Shepherd Is – arr. J. Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

To listen click <https://bit.ly/3aQQIyV>

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.
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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us bring before our Heavenly Father our praise and our petitions.

P Almighty God, You sent Your Son as our Good Shepherd.

C **Send us His Spirit that we might know Him, love Him, and follow Him.**

P We pray for those who are physically ill; especially...
Good Shepherd,
C **Grant them healing.**

P We pray for those who are emotionally distressed...
Good Shepherd,
C **Lead them to still waters.**

P We pray for those who live in destructive ways...
Good Shepherd,
C **Lead them down paths of righteousness for Your Name's Sake.**

P We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones and friends...
Good Shepherd,
C **Comfort them with Your Presence as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death.**

P We pray for those who are besieged by attacks from Satan...
Good Shepherd,
C **Prepare a table for them in the presence of the enemy.**

P We thank You for the faith of those who have gone before us...
Good Shepherd,
C **They dwell in Your House forever.**

P We pray for those without faith...
Good Shepherd,
C **Send us forth into Your harvest, that they might know You as their Good Shepherd.**

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your Mercy for the Sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His Will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His Sight.

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN

Have No Fear, Little Flock

LSB 735

1. Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen
To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!
2. Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you
In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

3. Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you,
Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

4. Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you,
In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

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P Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OFFERING (The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving and through the mail.)

POSTLUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze from Cantata No. 208– J. S. Bach

To listen click <https://bit.ly/2Sqdfm2>

Worship Servants

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke

Liturgist – Vicar Alan Shaw

Lector – Ross Bowen

Organist/Pianist – Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry

Pianist – Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Leader

Vocalists – Deb Oesterling, Marta Striplin, Sonja Striplin

Video Editor – Ben Bipes

Acknowledgments

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Socially Distant but Spiritually Close in Christ, 3: The *Lord* Is My Shepherd Easter 4 (1 Pet 2:19–25)

Part 3 of our 5-part series “socially distant but spiritually close in Christ” focuses on Jesus...not politicians or office managers...as our Good Shepherd. Jesus’ rescue from sin and death enables us to work faithfully and honor those in authority over us, even when it’s hard.

- I. Sooner or later we find ourselves on the wrong end of an _____.
 - a. I tell my story, from Kindergarten days. Do you have one? If so, please write or tell a family member about it.
 - b. St. Peter writes about the inevitability of suffering when we strive to do what’s right
- II. The challenges for the _____ in St. Peter’s day and the _____ today look a bit different...
 - a. Though it can seem at times like everyone’s out to get us, self-identifying Christians in the US today are neither a minority nor are they truly “persecuted” as in St. Peter’s day (both Peter and Paul are believed to have been martyred)
 - b. Though human trafficking may be common today, the institution of slavery has been abolished for us; not so for Peter’s readers
- III. But both St. Peter’s first readers and all of us today are given to confess together:
“The _____ is my _____!”
 - a. The reality for workers in this time of Covid-19 crisis often seems unjust
 - b. Workers of every era have had to put up with office politics and unfairness
 - c. Nevertheless, we are given to rest in the good news that the Lord (not any earthly politician!) is our shepherd and is truly in charge!
 - d. Jesus knows in a profound way what it means to suffer true injustice: the consequences for sin that we deserved! Yet He did not retaliate!
 - e. As risen Lord who has defeated death and gives us forgiveness of sins, Jesus “restores [our] souls,” He is with us as we “pass through the valley of the shadow of death.” He leads us to green pastures and still waters (Psalm 23)!
- IV. With Jesus as our true shepherd the Holy Spirit gives us what we need to honor _____
 - a. Luther’s explanation to the 4th Commandment: “We fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities but honor them....”

We are like wayward sheep who don’t know which way to go, but through Holy Baptism have been turned around to follow our Good Shepherd. We work faithfully and honor those in authority over us, even when it’s hard.



There are many opportunities to connect, serve, learn, and grow at Resurrection. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for our worship services and other devotionals and encouraging words from Pastor Jonathan. We encourage you to join us as we reach out with the love of Christ – ***by grace, through faith, for service.***

How to Get Connected

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-  ResurrectionLutheranCary
-  ResurrectionLutheranChurch-CaryNC

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