# I lay down My life for the sheep . . . that I may take it up again

### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH 22130 Ottawa Rd. Apple Valley, CA. 92308 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1645, Apple Valley, CA 92307 Phone: (760) 247-7392, FAX: (760) 247-9014 Pastor@ascensionav.org; office@ascensionav.org Website: www.ascensionav.org Rev. James Harris, Pastor

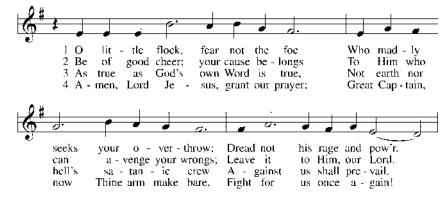
### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m. April 21, 2024 DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE: Page 184

### Thoughts as we gather:

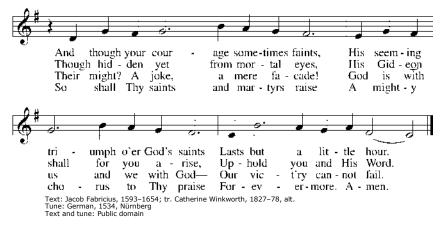
### Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

The Lord Jesus is "the good shepherd" who "lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the "authority to lay it down" and the "authority to take it up again" (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be "one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:16). That is why the apostles "were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (Acts 4:2). Since "there is salvation in no one else," His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, "for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to "love one another" and "to lay down our lives for the brothers," as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**



666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



Stand

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

P C

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

### Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.



- O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I 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 me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

Stand

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores 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 forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

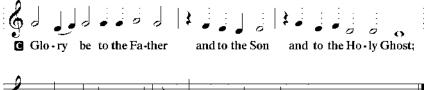
and to the Holy Spirit;

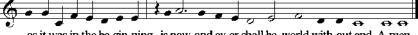
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

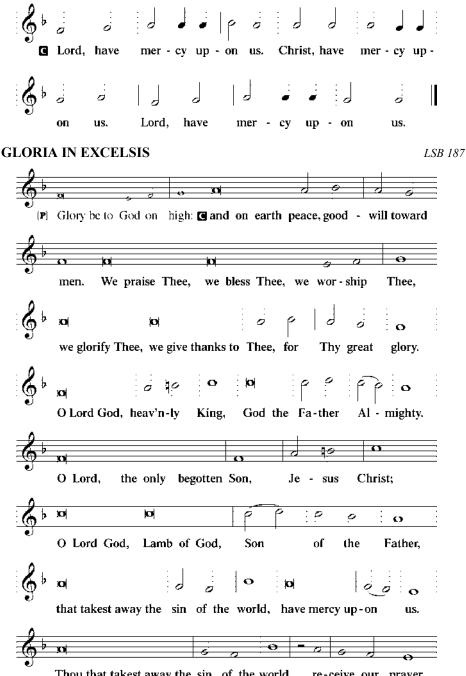
I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

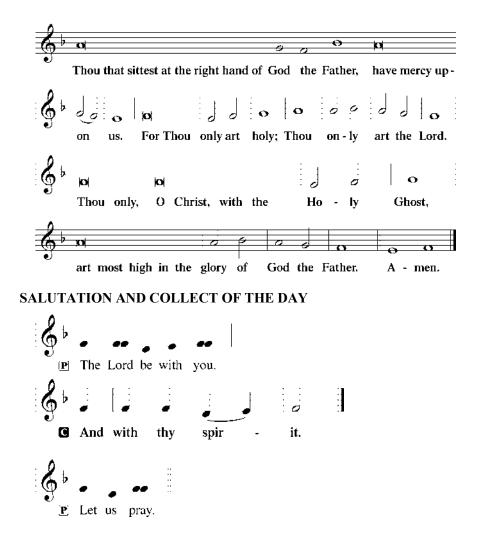




as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



▶ 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.



Sit

### FIRST READING

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 6

PSALM

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

#### EPISTLE

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. <sup>23</sup>And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

P С

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

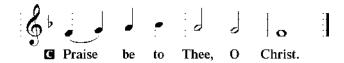
Stand

ALLELUIA LSB 190 C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11–18

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

Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father." **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



### **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.

Sit

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 The King of love shep herd is. Whose good - ness my -2 Where streams of liv ing wa ter flow, Mγ ran - somed fool -3 Per verse and ish oft Ι strayed, But yet in With 4 In death's dark vale L fear no ill Thee, dear 0 æ fail eth nev er; I noth ing lack if soul He lead \_ eth And, where the ver dant love He sought And His der me on shoul Thy Lord. be side mę, rod and staff тy His He for I am And is mine ev er. With food ce - les tial feed eth. pas - tures grow, gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me. com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth! 6 And so through all the length of days

 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!
 Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

### **SERMON:**

### "HE CARES"

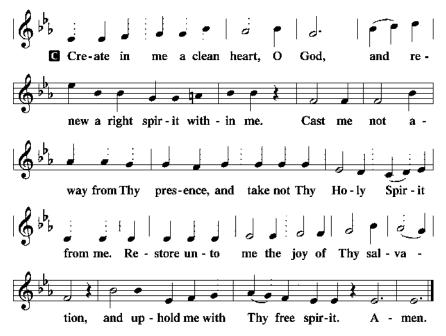
John 10:11-18

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.



Stand

### **OFFERTORY**



Sit

### **OFFERING**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **C** hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You alone gather us as Your sheep and send faithful shepherds to us. Call all who have wandered from Your flock, and bless the faithful shepherds who gather them through the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

 P Heavenly Father, Your Son has called us to love our brothers. Turn us in love toward the neighbors closest to us, especially within our own homes, that we may daily show our confidence in God by deed and truth, laying down our lives as Christ first did for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

С

# hear our prayer.

▶ Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment. Lord, in Your mercy,

# **C** hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, by the firstfruits of Christ's life from the dead, You secured forgiveness for our troubled consciences. Bless also with temporal health and well-being those who suffer among us *[especially ]*. Grant them aid in this moment and, even more so, true, immortal health in the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **C** hear our prayer.

P O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son's testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **C** hear our prayer.

- ▶ Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; 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.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### **Communion Statement**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

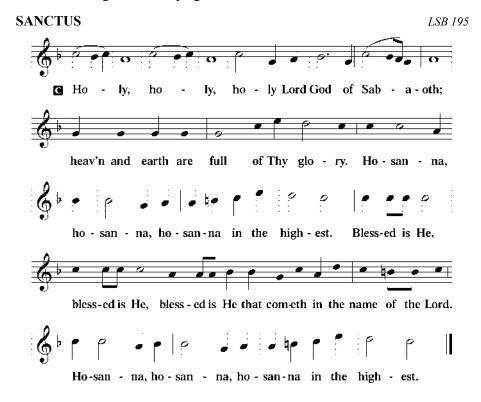
Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder.

PREFACE

LSB 194



 It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlast- ing God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resur- rection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore prais-ing You and saying:



### LORD'S PRAYER



### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PAX DOMINI

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.

LSB 197

LSB 197

AGNUS DEI



Sit

### DISTRIBUTION

**COMMUNION MUSIC** George Armstrong, Joe and Gail Yancho, Eunice Harris

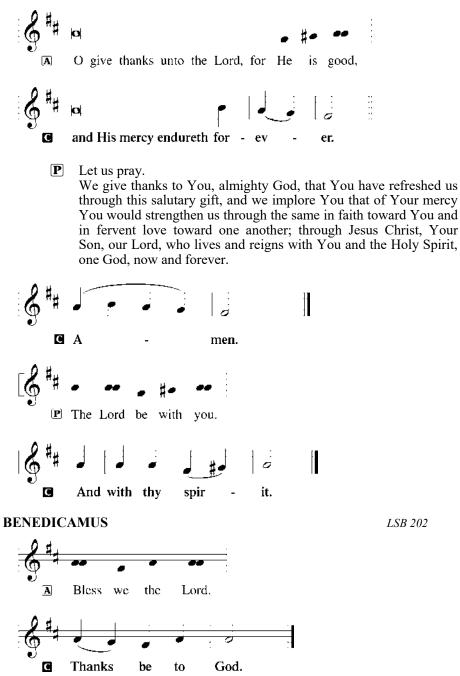
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

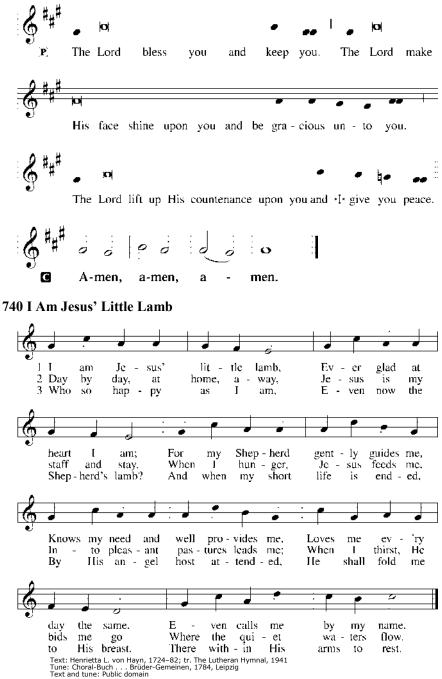


The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace. С Amen.

Stand







LSB 202

# Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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### SERVING SERVICE TODAY: ELDER Rick Ferrell HEAD USHER Bruce Benson

### SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, April 28, 2024 are:

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 150 (antiphon: v. 6) 1 John 4:1-11 (12-21) John 15:1-8

### April 21 – Easter 4

John 10:14 – "I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me." What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

# THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (04/21)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Bible Study
Mon. (04/22)	4:30 p.m.	Adult Confirmation Class
Tues. (04/23)	9:00 a.m.	Comfort Quilters
Wed. (04/24)	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Thurs. (04/25)	6:00 p.m.	NAMI Peer Connections
Fri. (04/26)	2:00 p.m.	Small Group Bible Study
Sun. (04/28)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Bible Study
ATTENDANCE:		
04/14/2024	9:00 a.m.	59
<b>OFFERING:</b>		
Needed weekly:	\$ 4,123.00	Needed YTD \$ 61,845.00
Rec'vd. 04/14/2024	<u>\$ 2,379.08</u>	Rec'vd YTD \$ <u>55,768.05</u>
Short Weekly	\$ (1,743.92)	Short YTD \$ (6, 076.95)

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We welcome you and invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after service. Be sure to check in with Debbie in the Narthex before service. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the Narthex, please include your address and home church. If this is your first time attending Holy Communion at Ascension, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder prior to the service.

# ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

Adult Confirmation Class will meet on Monday, April 22, at 4:30 p.m.

### **COMFORT QUILTERS**

Comfort Quilters will be meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m.

# NAMI

The next meeting of NAMI Peer Connections will be held on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

### SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting of the Small Group Bible Study will be held on Friday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the DeRose's home.

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY MAY 4th

Ladies are welcome Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the Pew Sisters—a ladies' Bible Study by Katie Schuermann. Linda Davis will provide snacks! There are still two free books available, bought by the Church. We are only on lesson two. Please ask Eunice Harris at 760-514-8990 for your free book.

### 2024 GRADUATES

Please contact Eunice Harris at 760-514-8990 if you are celebrating a graduate this year. We'll plan something for May or June. Tim is graduating this year.

### AFTERNOON TEA

Dear Sisters in Christ, you are cordially invited to attend an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Ascension's Social Hall. There will be prizes, games, food, and laughter. Please let Lynn Fairgrief know how many will be attending—765-418-0368.

Prayer and Praises" is your personal invitation to join with the Prayer Ministry of our church in daily prayer. If you would like someone to stay on the prayer list, please call the church office at 760-247-7392, put your request on the prayer cards in the church, or go on-line at www.ascensionav.org. Otherwise, names will be removed after two months.

#### **ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED:**

Angela Alder Tricia Blake Durfee Family Jennifer Millgate Mildred Sears Rory Tighe Marilvn Belka Tara Brown Kvle Burton Jackie Clinton Larry Cramins Mary Diaz Janice Estrick Chrissie Gates Grace Glass John Gregg Marty Hall Hazel & Andy Harry Heike Chris Kelly Anthony Kwesie Melody LeGray Kelly Marscheider David McDonald Daniel Midgelv Jay Miner Renee Moore Dennis Nelson Michelle Nichol Jessie Oswald Tim & Marguerite Pastella Heidi Perrv Kellev Pulone Dave Riffel Rose & Iris Ernie Schmidt Noreen Selle Bea Shelby Manuel Sousa Carol Thomas Diana Thornbury Lisa Marie Van Slyke Rosa & Paul Wallace Stacy Wilson Cvnthia Yancho **GRIEF & STRENGTH:** Family of Joyce Raff Family of Silas

Mary Beuerle Devin Coole Gamas Family Beverly Moglich Kevin Smith Rav Beauchamp Bill & Jan Blanton Karrie Burke Renee Cates Dick Connors William Creek Oscar Duenas Lynn Fairgrief Faigie Gawn Government Raquel Gudino Roger Hall Jeanne Hecksel Dawn Husel Linda Kienle Debbie Lange Doug & Corky Lumley Al & Betty Lu Mayer Judy Meadows Military Justin Morales Herbert Moran Amanda Netzell Cindy Nielsen Glenn & Nancy Pastella Sharon Pennington Michelle Peterson Marilvn Ouade Crystal Roblero Beth Rubio Chris Segard Loretta Severson Short Family Ron Stark Ora Thomas Trudi Tucker Blaise Vasey Sharon Waters Wilma Wilson Larry Young

Charles Blake Judy Cutler Jan Harke Gavlon Pastella Gwen Strasburg Red & MarvAnn Beck Sue Boers Sherry Burke Cindy Celava Beth Craig Kathy Davis Christine Dunne Christian Frash Chris Gibson Jay & Becky Graham Kurt Gutowsky Pastor Harris Hedden Family Linda Kaufman Emma Kraus Rvlee LaTrace Steve & Debbie Martines Bob Maver Dave Meyer David Miller Debbie Moore Janet Mowerv Lauren Newmann Lori O'Neil Seunghee Pastella Jose Perez Ken & Lvnda Porter Charlotte Ramirez Linda Roque Sage Margi Segnari Ray Shaffer Mike Skiffington Dave Tamer Matthew & Tina Thorn Stan Vacek Tammy Wall Nancy Williams Judy Winkler Ray Zayas



Scripture: ESV® © 2024 CPH About the Cover: The Good Shepherd does not withhold His own life for His sheep. He laid down His life on Good Friday as a sacrifice for our sins in order to take it up again on Easter Sunday. He did it all of His own authority for us. Therefore, we know that when He takes our lives up like the Good Shepherd that He is, we are in good hands that will carry us safely to eternal life.