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Saint James Lutheran Church



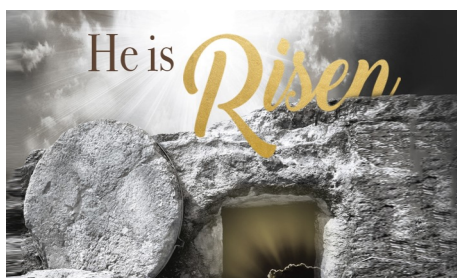
A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2020



Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Ego sum pastor bonus

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to who all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not love our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *Acts 2:42-47*

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 23*

The *Lord* is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN*The King of Love My Shepherd Is**Guest vocalist, Ilana Lubitsch*

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 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; 6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thine unction grace bestoweth; thy goodness faileth never.
 and, oh, what transport of delight Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 from thy pure chalice floweth! within thy house forever.

NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, proclaim the resurrection!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627 (three verses)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

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PRAYER LIST

Angie Buchanan
All health care professionals
and first responders including:
Dr Bradley Propst, son of
Kenny and Annette Propst
Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth
Hurley
Lisa Snyder, friend of Debbie
Wilkinson
Julie Greathouse, friend of
Lois Marlow
Betsy Waselovich, sister of
Golda Jay
Lauren, daughter of Angie
Buchanan
Dr. Stephanie Garrison,
daughter-in-law of Margaret
Garrison
Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of
Margaret Garrison.
Jason and Stephanie Matthews
Deb Bradshaw
DeeDee Gilbert
Annette Propst

If you have a name of someone you
would like to add to the prayer list,
please contact Keith. 704-786-0166
and leave a message or email at
keith@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

03-May Charlotte Glatz
03-May Edwin Glatz
03-May Elizabeth Harris
03-May Joy Lineberger
04-May Thomas Baker
04-May DeeDee Gilbert
04-May John Kuly
04-May Trent Propst
05-May Julie Burroughs
05-May Michael Cartwright
05-May Sarah Propst
06-May Kimmie Brooks
06-May Bryson Ziegler
07-May Anthony Wyatt
08-May Sandy Barnhardt
08-May Patricia McDonough
09-May Anne Reading

COOK SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr
established an endowment to assist
college and graduate students who
are members of St. James Lutheran
Church to help pay their tuition.
The Cook Trust Fund Committee is
now accepting applications for the
fall and spring semesters of the
school year 2020/2021. Please
contact the church office by phone
or email keith@sjnc.net to receive
a first time or returning
application. The deadline to return
the application will be **June 1st,
2020** to be considered for a
scholarship this fall. Please contact
Kenny Propst with any questions
that you may have regarding the
application process at 704-467-2300
or fcpsc@vnet.net

CONTRIBUTIONS

The need for your giving and
support continues, even though we
have had to cancel gathering and
corporate worship services. You
can mail your contributions or
contribute online. You may make
contributions online by visiting our
website at www.sjnc.net. You may
contribute to the General Fund or
to a designated fund. Look for the
link "On-Line Giving" on the
St. James home page. Thank you
for your continued support

Join Saint James Lutheran
Church Facebook and
Instagram groups—send Jeremy
Jay any pictures and/or articles you
would like to have posted at
jeremy@pbnjay.com

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OFFICE HOURS
M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00
Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00

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The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

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