

# EASTER 4 SUNDAY

April 25, 2021

Organ Prelude: Pastoral Symphony from Messiah

G. F. Handel

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

“God, you are my Shepherd; I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1)

**We come to worship in order to open our hearts and our spirits to a God who is like a Shepherd to us.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

**We come to worship in order to learn what it means to follow Christ and to love as he loves.**

“The Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to the springs of the water of life...” (Revelation 7:17)

**We come to worship in order to find divine guidance as we journey through our lives.**

**ALL: Let us worship God together!**

Hymn: “The Lord's my shepherd”

No. 11

*soloist Erin Stone with organist Bruce Nasmith*

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.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill,  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

2. My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness  
even for his own name's sake.

4. My table thou hast furnished  
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.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;  
**And also with you.**

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "Now the green blade rises"

trad. French Carol

*soloist Joanne Nasmith with guitarist/singer Jim Nasmith*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 23; John 10: 1-11; Revelation 7: 9-17

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> God makes me lie down in green pastures;  
God leads me beside still waters;

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

God leads me in right paths  
for God's name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I 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  
my whole life long. Amen.

John 10: 1-11

<sup>10</sup>‘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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

<sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup>‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Amen.

Revelation 7: 9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ <sup>14</sup>I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ Amen.

We are listening, O God;

**Speak to us!**

Sermon: WHAT GOD DO YOU BELIEVE IN? Dr. Harris

Special Music: “Sheep may safely graze” J. S. Bach

*soloist Elias Theocharidis with accompaniment by Bruce Nasmith*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: “You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd” No. 356

*soloists Erin Stone & Elias Theocharidis with organist Bruce Nasmith*

1. You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
you, peacemaker and sword-bringer  
of the way you took and gave,  
you the everlasting instant,  
you, whom we both scorn and crave.

3. You, who walk each day beside us,  
sit in power at God’s side.  
You, who preach a way that’s narrow,  
have a love that reaches wide,  
you, the everlasting instant,  
you, who are our pilgrim guide.

2. Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
stripped of might upon the cross,  
shining in eternal glory,  
beggared by a soldier’s toss,  
you, the everlasting instant,  
you, who are both gift and cost.

4. Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory.  
Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant,  
you, who are our death and life.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: The Gigue Fugue J. S. Bach