

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Traditional Service

424 King's Grant Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Office: 340-8420 Web: princeofpeacevb.org E-mail:
office@princeofpeacevb.org

AS WE GATHER This Sunday in the Church Year is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The appointed Psalm for the day is Psalm 23, which is among the most well-known psalms. The Gospel from John 10 records Jesus revealing Himself as the Good Shepherd. While fewer and fewer people are familiar with what it is like to take care of sheep, this metaphor of God’s protection and provision has become a great source of comfort and hope. God grant that you find such blessed comfort as you dwell securely here in the house of the Lord.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

LSB 710

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

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

P He is our Good Shepherd. **C** He leads us to green pastures and still waters.

P He is our Good Shepherd. **C** We listen to His voice.

P He is our Good Shepherd. **C** He lays down His life for the sheep.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In this Easter season, celebration is always near our lips. We are glad to shout Alleluias in worship, but when we leave we do not always recognize our neighbors in need. We may close our hearts to them. We may reject them. We may fail to follow the example of our Good Shepherd. As we draw near to the Lord, let us consider our sins and ask God for His forgiveness.

P Heavenly Father, **C** we have sinned against You and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. You know our sins, and they are ever before You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us as a shepherd leads his sheep.

P God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Good Shepherd. He has laid down His life for our forgiveness and has taken His life back up again in His glorious resurrection.

As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. The Lord restores us and leads us in paths of righteousness. Amen.

Hymn of Praise “All Hail the power of Jesus’ Name” LSB 549 st 1, 5 & 7

SALUTATION AND 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.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Acts 4:1-12* (Jesus is the stone that was rejected and has become the cornerstone)

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 A PSALM OF DAVID

C 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.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:16-24* (Love one another as Christ has loved us)

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11-18* (Jesus is our Good Shepherd)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

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P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to You, O Christ.** *(Sit)*

HYMN OF THE DAY “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

(Stand)

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 both the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Response for prayer petitions:

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781 st. 1, 2

Lord’s Prayer

BENEDICTION *(Stand)*

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. **C** Amen.
Numbers 6:24-26

RECESSIONAL HYMN “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

Children's Ministry & Christian Education

All preschool-elementary aged children are invited to participate in Sunday School from 9:45am-10:45am. Children will meet with volunteer Sunday School teachers in front of the grand piano in the Sanctuary for a brief music time before moving to the Sunday School classroom in the preschool wing for the remainder of their lesson. Children may participate in a Bible lesson from the Enduring Faith Curriculum and participate in a related craft. Children will be released to parents prior to the start of the 11:00am worship service.

Middle Schoolers are invited to participate in Confirmation Class during this time, which is held in the Fellowship Hall, and led by Rev. Mark Nieting.