

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

“I am the **good shepherd**. The **good shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11



4th Sunday of Easter
THE VICTORIOUS SHEPHERD!
April 21, 2024

TODAY'S MESSAGE: THE VICTORIOUS SHEPHERD!

Today's reading from First Samuel, chapter 17, is very familiar to most Christians. It is about a shepherd boy named David and a giant warrior named Goliath. David's chances against Goliath were very slim to none, but David defeated Goliath with just a sling a stone. Most importantly, the Lord was on David's side. Today's reading from John, chapter 10, presents to us another Shepherd who came to lay down His life for His sheep. His chances seemed very slim to none when He was crucified and then died on a cross. But through His death on the cross and His rising to life on the third day, this Shepherd showed that He was victorious over the powers of sin, Satan, and even death. Jesus is our victorious Shepherd!



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Psalm 118:24

P: This is the day the LORD has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"All People that on Earth do Dwell"

LSB 791

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell. Come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed. Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise. Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud and bless His name always, for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good. His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The God whom heav'n and earth adore.
From us and from the angel host, be praise and glory evermore.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Shepherd Psalm [NKJV]

Psalm 23

ALL: The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, 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 runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Hymn of Comfort

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

LSB 710

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.

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.

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.

**My table Thou hast furnished, in presence of my foes.
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life, shall surely follow me.
And in God's house forevermore, my dwelling place shall be.**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: **Crucified and RISEN Lord, you are the Good Shepherd. You laid down your life for the sheep and through faith that is born in baptism and by your Word, we now belong to you. Empower your people to give witness of your love and sacrifice until you have brought all of your sheep into one fold; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

1 Samuel 17:1a, 3-11, 32-37, 40-50

The Philistines gathered their armies for battle. The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span (over nine feet tall). He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Then David took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 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.

C: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. You have bought us, we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. You have bought us, we are Yours.**

**We are Yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way.
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. Hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be.
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. Early let us turn to You.**

**Early let us seek Your favor, early let us do Your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus. Blessed Jesus. You have loved us, love us still.**

Sermon

THE VICTORIOUS SHEPHERD!

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“He is Arisen! Glorious Word”

LSB 488

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord. The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

Offering *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, “The peace of the Lord be with you.”)*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: **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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* A - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth.

And, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me.

And on His shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

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.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight, Thine unction grace bestoweth.

And, oh, what transport of delight, from Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never.

Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise, within Thy house forever!

“I am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

I am Jesus’ little lamb, ever glad at heart I am.

For my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need and well provides me.

Loves me ev’ry day the same, even calls me by my name.

**Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me.
When I thirst, He bids me go, where the quiet waters flow.**

**Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, there within His arms to rest.**

"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"

LSB 540

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham.
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM.
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light of life You bring to all.
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul.
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be.
Quench our thirst with living water, springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, from the stump of Jesse's tree.
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches, to bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior. Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard, till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep.
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home.
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us. Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unfailing, to the Father's home on high.
Christ the truth that frees the captive. Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

**Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Christ, the firstborn from the dead.
Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration, and unending worship be,
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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: (sung) A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

LSB 687

**Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above.
 Thine forever may we be, here and in eternity!**

**Thine forever! Oh, how blest, they who find in Thee their rest!
 Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend, O defend us to the end!**

**Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
 Thou, the life, the truth, the way, guide us to the realms of day.**

**Thine forever! Shepherd keep, these Thy frail and trembling sheep.
 Safe alone beneath Thy care, let us all Thy goodness share.**

**Thine forever! Thou our guide. All our wants by Thee supplied.
 All our sins by Thee forgiv’n. Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.**

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”