

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020



The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (vs. 1 & 4) ELW 789

1. 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.
4. 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.

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

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.**

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.

[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."

Reflection for Reading at Home We often call this fourth Sunday of Easter "Good Shepherd Sunday," because our Gospel reading in all three years comes from the 10th chapter of John's gospel in which Jesus refers to himself as "The Good Shepherd." However, we might just as easily call this Sunday "Good Gate Sunday" because that's what Jesus calls himself. A shepherd would often find or create a natural enclosure for his flock and then, at night, lie down across the entrance. He would protect the sheep from threats from the outside. Later in chapter 10 Jesus says, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Jesus literally saves us by lying down! Far from being a passive image, by lying down Jesus actively protects and rescues us. "Social distancing" during this time of the coronavirus is not passive either, but a very active way we love our vulnerable neighbors.

Homily Pastor Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

And lead us not into the time of trial

But deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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;

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

Amen.

Hymn “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (vs. 1, 3, & 5) ELW 883

1. All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the
Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with mirth, his
praise forth tell; come ye before him and rejoice.
3. Oh, 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.
5. 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.

The Sanctuary Candle Is presented in memory of her father, Robert Kopp, by Glenn and Linda Beard.



Ephrata Area Social Services is experiencing high demand during the pandemic with a decrease in food donations. They are accepting monetary donations to help bridge this gap. Monetary donations can be made out to EASS. Their address is EASS 227 N State St Ephrata. Thank you in advance for your donation to help your neighbor.

The May/June newsletter is available at Swamp. It is placed in the food container in the front of the church.



Jennifer "Moyer" Thomas and Benjamin Thomas
Michael Crowther
Danielle Kreitz – Stepdaughter of Sue Kreitz
Cassandra Pope
Nolan Weitzel – Son of Andy and Nichole Weitzel
Doris Kopp
Jan and Don Risser
Susan Levan
Earl and Irene Myers
Barbara Mizdail
Ray Showalter
Jim and Mary Jane Miller
Charles Moyer
Dawna Meese – Friend of the Templin's
Grace Ranck
Nancy Kulp
Elmo Lorah – Friend of Connie Taylor
Lisa Buckles – Friend of Sue Knauer
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Chester Peachy – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Bill Sweigart – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Kyle Lord – Cousin of Kim Houck
Andy Etman
Bryand Rincher - Nephew of Connie and Tony Malafarina
Ivy Erb-Willard – Friend of Kim Houck
Christina Ayala – Brain Tumor – Friend of Kim Houck
Dottie Smith - Friend of Connie Taylor
Betty Custer - Mother of Tony Malafarina
Sandy Heisey – Sister-in-law of Jenn Weitzel
Tracey Pajski – Daughter of Andrew Kelly
Cheryl Black – Friend of the Gockleys
Tom Schalata – Stepfather of Katie Koehle
Judith Esterly – Friend of Janice Kelly
Kristen Ramsey (kidney transplant) Fiancé of Eric Long
Bryan Miller – Friend of the Reedys

Please let us know when we can remove people from the sick and shut-in list.



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these trying days! I am writing to you to ask if you might share a need with members of your congregations. If your congregation has a sewing group or individuals who like to sew, Luther Acres could use their support. We have a critical need for isolation gowns as we provide care to our residents. I've attached a pdf file with a pattern that can be used for these gowns. If you share this need and find any volunteers interested in helping us, please give my contact information. You have my email address and my cell phone number is (717) 471-1067. Luthercare will provide material for those interested in sewing gowns.

Thank you so much! Please stay safe and healthy!

The Rev. Glenn A. Beard, Jr., MDiv, BCC
Director, Church Relations & Pastoral Care, Luthercare;
Coordinator, Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response Network



600 E. Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543

The pattern for the isolation gowns is available and can be picked up at the church office between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.