

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Door and the Shepherd

Pax Worship Service

April 30, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG *The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)*

Verse **Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart
Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart**

Chorus *Give us this day, our daily bread forgive us, forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned against us, forgive them
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
From the evil one, let Your kingdom come*

Verse, Chorus

Bridge(X2) **It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours
The kingdom, the power, the glory are Yours
It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours
Forever and ever, the kingdom is Yours**

Verse **Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart
Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart**

Tag On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Vicar: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Vicar: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;
People: He leads us and restores our souls.

Vicar: He walks beside us through the darkness
People: and never abandons us, even in death.

Vicar: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,
People: and we will dwell in His house forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Vicar: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection.

Vicar: Heavenly Father,
People: we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Vicar: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.

✠ **WORD** ✠

SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: 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.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe^[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising

God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–

25

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

LORD I NEED YOU

**Verse 1 Lord I come, I confess Bowing here, I find my rest Without
You, I fall apart You're the One that guides my heart**

***Chorus Lord I need You, oh, I need You Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness Oh God how I need You***

**Verse 2 Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more Where grace is
found, is where You are Where You are, Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me (*Chorus*)**

**Bridge So teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my
way When I cannot stand I'll fall on You Jesus You're my
hope and stay(*Chorus*)**

Tag **You're my one defense, my righteousness Oh God how I need**
 You My one defense, my righteousness Oh God how I need
You

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1–10

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

10 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.**

**We are, thine thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy, flock from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us, when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us, when we pray.**

**Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.**

SERMON

“Living for God”
Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

John 10:10

The Same Power

**Verse 1 I can see waters raging at my feet I can feel the breath of
 those surrounding me I can hear the sound of nations rising
up We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome**

**Verse 2 I can walk down this dark and painful road I can face ev'ry
 fear of the unknown I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome**

**Chorus The same power that rose Jesus from the grave The same
 power that commands the dead to wake Lives in us, lives in
us The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
 The same power that can calm a raging sea Lives in us, lives
in us Lives in us, lives in us**

**Verse 3 We have hope that His promises are true In His strength
 there is nothing we can't do Yes we know there are greater
things in store We will not be overtaken, we will not be
overcome**

CHORUS 2X

THE OFFERING (*baskets will be passed*)

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

INSTALLATION OF CALLED TEACHERS

JENNIFER ROHRICH & SIERRA HANSEN

INSTALLATION OF DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DEREK JARESKE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: Petitions heard... *(ending with...)* Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG *HOW GREAT THOU ART*

Verse 1 **Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all
the worlds Thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the
rolling thunder Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed**

Chorus **Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee How great Thou
art, how great Thou art Then sings my soul my Savior God
to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art How great
Thou art!**

Verse 2 **And when I think that God, His Son not sparing Sent Him to**

**die, I scarce can take it in That on the cross my burden
gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin**

Chorus X2

**How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!**