

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Door and the Shepherd
Traditional 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 HYMN *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

- 1 **Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise; Father all glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.**

- 2 **Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend. Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success, And let Thy righteousness On us descend.**

3. **Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.**

4. **To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.**

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: (sing) 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.

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: **(sing) 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
25

1 Peter 2:19–

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.**

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.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”* #710

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.

2 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.

3 **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.**

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.**

SERMON

“Living for God”
Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

John 10:10

THE OFFERING (*baskets will be passed*)

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

#781vs1,6

***We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. And we believe Thy Word, Though dim
our faith may be: What e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.***

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: **(sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *“Christ is Our Cornerstone”* #912

**1 Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true
 saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His great love Our hopes
 we place Of present grace And joys above.**

**2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore, And may
 that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore Until that day When all
 the blest To endless rest Are called away.**

**3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring; Our
 voices we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus proclaim
 In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.**

SILENT PRAYER