

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #385 – *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”*

Greeting - *Page 147*

Kyrie – *Page 147*

Canticle of Praise – *Page 149*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, ¹⁰and to all the people of Israel, that this

man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Page 151

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Do you have someone who notices when something is not quite right? Let me give you an example.

Joe was usually a happy guy. He whistled a lot. People could always hear him coming, whistling some bright and cheery melody. But then things changed. One day a friend stopped him and asked him, "Joe, are you alright?"

"Yeah, I'm alright" was the reply.

"Are you sure?"

"Sure I'm sure! Why do you think something's wrong?"

"Because you don't whistle anymore." There was a moment when their eyes met and searched each other. Then the words began to come out slowly. Things weren't going well. Joe's job was in jeopardy. And at home, relationships were strained.

The conversation continued over several cups of coffee. The friend was no professional counselor--just a friend. He listened, and made an occasional comment when it seemed appropriate. All that happened was that one person was willing to share the load of another.

When they left the cafe they arranged to meet again, not necessarily to continue their conversation, just to be together.

There is no conclusion to the story; only a beginning, and the promise, "to be continued." It's like many of the stories of our own lives. If you have a friend like that say a prayer of thanks, and stay close.

Most of us do know such a person. They seem to have a built in sense of knowing when something is wrong in our life. It is a gift, but it is a gift we all can cultivate and nurture. That is what we have been trying to do in the Church for a long time. Today's Gospel reading is one of the models that we follow.

Here Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. He tells us something of the special relationship that shepherds of the Middle East have with their sheep: "I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

If 2 or 3 flocks of sheep somehow got mixed together, the shepherds could separate them simply by calling to their own flocks and leading them apart in different directions. The sheep know the shepherd's voice; and the shepherd knows the sheep by sight, and by name. The shepherd calls them, and they respond.

There are times in our lives when we need a shepherd. When illness or any kind of tragedy breaks into our life, we need a shepherd to lead us close to the calm waters of healing and refreshment. When we or a loved one walk

in the valley of the shadow of death and grief, we need comfort that only our Shepherd can give. When we have lost our way and have strayed into behaviour that threatens to destroy us and bring grief to those we love, we need to be sought and found and brought back again into the safety of the flock.

Sometimes we wander far from our Shepherd. One or two bad choices can lead us to a place where we feel lost and alone, where nobody cares what happens to us. There we need to be found by someone who knows us, and who says, "Can I help?" When love calls us by name it is indeed the Good Shepherd who calls us--the very one who was willing to lay down his life that we may have life.

We live in a world that is often very impersonal towards us. It has signs that say "Take a number and wait to be served." It assigns us Social Insurance Numbers, health care numbers, credit card numbers, Driver's License Numbers.

We feel like we are just a number, a statistic. That can cause us to feel that we have no identity, nothing individual or special or important. To be a number suggests that there is no relationship.

Our world teaches us to look after number one, and to stand up for our rights. When everyone is concerned only for themselves, no one cares about others; no one stands up for others; no one is out to show love for others.

God's Kingdom is the exact opposite. God created us to be in relationship with others, to be loved and to love; to be known and to know. Who we are is important, and today's Gospel highlights that importance. "I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

Jesus is really talking about people, not sheep. In fact He is talking about us. Jesus is telling us, "I know you by name, for you are mine." Jesus knows us, loves us, and cares for us. Using a modern term, in terms of how Jesus loves us, "He is all in." He loves us so much that He willingly died on the cross for us and for our sin.

The Good Shepherd is not only a beautiful image that shows Jesus' relationship to us, but of how we ought to be to one another. Jesus has called us to love one another as He loves us. Sadly, we in the church have never been very good at loving one another. We have been much better at judging others; or at leaving in a huff when someone hurts us or offends us.

But we are called to witness the essence of the Good Shepherd to all others, those in our congregation, and those beyond it; those we know well, and those we don't know well; those we like a lot, and those we don't like at all. They are all part of Jesus' flock. It was for them too that Jesus lay down his life. Everyone should hear Jesus' voice through us and should see Jesus' love through us.

May we take the time to notice when something isn't quite right with our neighbour. May we show love to everyone as Jesus has shown His love for us. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW #778 - *"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

Apostles' Creed – *Page 105*

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith; fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Bring healing, restoration and all that is needed to those who need our prayers, especially, Florence, Jason, Richard, Heather, Sheila, Vince, Robert, Dorian. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION

Music As Table Is Prepared

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Page 152

“Lamb of God” –Page 154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: *LBW #196 – “Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”*

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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News and Announcements:

Please Prayfor Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Heather Miller, Sheila Purdy, Vince Rabishaw, Robert Schoof, Dorian Verch.

THANK YOU!

Update Regarding Jason and Karen Godin

Jason and Karen are most grateful for all the support our congregation and friends have given them. Your help means so much and is sincerely appreciated. We have helped to ease some of the burden.

Please continue to keep Jason in prayer as he continues with his treatment. Jason is finished the radiation treatments and will be starting stronger chemotherapy next week. It has been a challenging journey and will need continuing care. As we uphold Jason and family in our prayers may they experience God's peace and love.

Ellen Vandersleen, Social Ministry Chair

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

POTS FOR REPOTTING NEEDED

If you are cleaning up this spring and have any pots especially the 1 gallon size that you no longer want Ellen would love to have them. We are getting ready for the Horticultural Plant Sale and will need lots. You can drop them off at the church or my house, 171 Sawmill Rd, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W4, or I will pick up at your house. You can call at 613 732 7649. The sale is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd at the Pembroke Market.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday mornings a week later.

COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRATION AND BOOKING

In order to assist our seniors, Chair Susan Dupuis asked Ellen Vandersleen and Jan Scheidt for assistance in registering and booking our senior members for the Covid-19 vaccine. We have worked our way down the list (arranged by age) and continue to assist those members who might have difficulty in registering and booking an appointment. At the same time, we are also updating our church records, asking for cell phone numbers and email addresses. It is the goal of Church Council to have an updated list of membership for when Pastor Scott and his wife, Sue arrive at the end of May. Pastor Scott begins his ministry here effective June 1st, 2021. Effective April 15, those members who received their shot, also received a return date the third week in July. Members who received their vaccine prior to April 15, will be telephoned or emailed a date for their second dose. If you require further assistance and need some help, please phone Ellen Vandersleen at (613) 732 – 7649 or Jan Scheidt at (613) 631 – 0658 and leave your name and phone number. Please note that Jan prefers to use her cell phone number (due to severe hearing loss) and it is (519) 752 – 9826. Many thanks to the many members who have graciously shared with Susan, Ellen and Jan information to update the church records. Jan Scheidt, Social Ministry Committee

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes have been postponed until after the stay at home is lifted.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Please remember that Pastor Leena is available to all for pastoral care during the next few months. This support may look different than we are accustomed to as she will be following all of the covid restrictions. She can be contacted at 613-631-1082

**Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's
Production Crew:**

Presider: Pastor Jim Goos

Musician: Blaine Sack

Worship Assistant/Reader: Susan Dupuis

Projectionist: Philip Vandersleen

Recorder: Alex Hammel

Sound Board Operator: Krista Hammel

Credit Researcher: Diane Hammel

This Week at Zion – April 26 – May 2

Tuesday **7p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday **10am** Recording of Easter 5 Worship Service with Holy
Communion