

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

MAY 3, 2020

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor**

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Website:

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com**

Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 am

**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**“I am the door.
If anyone enters by Me,
he will be saved, and
will go in and out and
find pasture.” John 10:9**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2020

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our prayer that you will be spiritually nourished through God's Word, and we look forward to seeing you in person when we gather together in God's house again.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on me and have given Your only-begotten Son to be my loving Redeemer and my Good Shepherd. By Your grace, lead me to remember and give thanks for His sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection, which assure salvation to all who believe. Graciously receive my prayer and by the power of the Holy Spirit grant that I follow our Good Shepherd now and always. Amen.

AS WE GATHER WITH OUR FAMILIES

The closing prayer of the funeral service begins with these words: "Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home." Describing Jesus as a Shepherd is a special image used in prayers, hymns, and Christian artwork. The believer receives a sense of assurance in knowing that the One being followed throughout life is Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The fact that our Lord chooses to repeat the words "I am the Good Shepherd" more than once indicates its importance to Him and to us. As we follow Jesus, we can be confident that He will lead us into that place where goodness and righteousness are eternal.

PRELUDE

I am Jesus little lamb (choir)

OPENING HYMN *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* **LSB 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 furnishèd

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.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 95:1, 7

L: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD

A: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

L: For He is our God,

A: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

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

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

L Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

A 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.

L "In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to Become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

A Amen.

RESPONSE

L Christ is risen!

A He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L This is the day the Lord has made!

A Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L Through Him we are risen to new life!

A We are and will be risen indeed!

L Because Jesus is alive forevermore,

A in Him we will live also!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L 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.

A Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 2:42–47

(The life of the first Christians)

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

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46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23

L The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

**A He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**

L He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

**A 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.**

L You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

**A Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of
the Lord forever.**

L The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

(The example of Christ, who suffered for us)

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 “Who committed no sin,

Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.


L This is the Word of the Lord.

A **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

(Jesus is the door of the sheep.)

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

A **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear 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 does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A **Praise to You, O Christ**

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* **LSB 709**

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.

4 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.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Public domain

SERMON "Freedom for the Flock" (John 10:9)

OFFERING *Given with cheerful and joyful hearts*

HYMN I am Jesus Little Lamb

LSB 740

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and
for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness
of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be
proclaimed throughout all the world.

Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L We pray for those who are in need, assured of the
Shepherd's care for all of His sheep. Help us to meet the
needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led
by our Good Shepherd day by day.

Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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L We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples.

Lord, in Your mercy,

A People: hear our prayer.

L We pray for our families and everyone in them. Together help us to follow the Good Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell together in love and unity.

Lord in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness [including . . .], . Gently guide them with Your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with You. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Inspire us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Lord in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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.**

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

**L The Lord bless us and keep us,
The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us
The Lord lift His countenance upon us and grant us peace**

A Amen

SENDING HYMN *In Thee is Gladness*

LSB 818

**1 In Thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given, the gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living, to Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!**

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2 Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*



Church Services will begin May 10th!

We've been looking forward to the day that we could gather again. We give all glory to God for helping us through all the past weeks of sheltering. And we give thanks to God for all the mothers who have especially guided their children during this time. So we celebrate a reopening of congregational worship and Mother's Day!

As we've been hearing in the news, Texas is leading the nation in the reopening of businesses. Governor Abbott just recently also designated houses of worship as essential. His guidelines do not limit religious services to a 25% occupancy. But, church gatherings *are* limited to the number of people that safely maintain a 6ft distance at all times. Immanuel, along with Zion, are the first two churches in the valley to hold public services. Our other sister congregations are waiting until after Memorial Day.

Since Immanuel is in Phase I of reopening along with the state of Texas, we want to still be extra vigilant and cautious as we meet together to worship. **Only .48% of the Valley has been tested.** With new testing sites just being opened, there's been a rise in daily new cases of Covid -19 being reported in both Hidalgo and Cameron counties. Our Safety Coordinator, Gary Mitzel has been busy putting together a **Standard Operating Procedure** to help us stay safe for the reopening. What follows is a summary of the **SOP**.

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Two questions will help us reopen smoothly.

1. What should I expect during Phase I?

2. What is expected of me during Phase I?

What should I expect during Phase I?

- There will be cones in the parking lot marking off every other parking space to provide a safe distance
- The service will be outside on the basketball court (weather permitting) to receive the benefit of the UV sanitizing rays and to aid in spacing and cleanup.
- There will be a sanitizing station at the gate to hand wash with running water and soap.
- There will be a table inside the gate to pick up a mask (required), disposable gloves (optional) and a bulletin
- Use of the hallway bathrooms is limited to one at a time
- Chairs will be set up facing Washington St. in singles and pairs at 6ft distance apart. More chairs can be added for larger families on the outside of the rows. There will be chairs set up under the hallway cover for shade.
- **The May 10th service will be a non-communion service and the May 17th service will be a communion service.**
- The service liturgy will be spoken to reduce the projection of air that accompanies singing. There will be choral hymns to hum along with or speak.
- There will not be Bible class after the service. The online Bible study continues to be available for family time.

What is expected of me during Phase I?

- ♦ A lot of love and patience for each other! Each of us is making inconvenient self-sacrifices so that others can have the confidence of a safe environment!
- ♦ **You are kindly requested to:**
 - **Stay home if you feel sick,**
 - **wear a face masks at all times (except to receive the Lord's Supper—more information to follow).**
The church will have some masks on hand to provide.
 - wash your hands at the outside washing station before entering**
 - maintain a 6 ft. safe distance at all times and to refrain from sharing the peace, handshaking and hugging.**
- ♦ **Members over 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home according to the Texas District, county and governor's guidelines, and continue receiving spiritual strength through remote means. This is an individual health decision. The sermon, bulletin and hymns will continue to be available on the church website.**
- ♦ Much prayer to God for the continued safe opening of our church and our sister congregations!

God's blessings, Pastor Weber

The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd

Summary of the Bible Lessons for today

Although we “were straying like sheep,” the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins “in his body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we “have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Now through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the feast of His table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also “hear his voice” and “know his voice” (John 10:3–4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in “the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship” and in “the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Memory Verse Challenge

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). And again, “these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31) The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures, and in so doing to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.

This week's memory verse: **1 John 4:10**

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”