

St. John's Lutheran Church
Covington, OH
Church Office (937) 473-2170
Pastor's Home (937) 703-1788
Good Shepherd's Sunday
April 25, 2021
SERVICE OF THE WORD
+ GATHERING+

PRELUDE & PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

As we listen to the prelude music, we are invited to focus our attention on God and God's kingdom, praying silently or engaging in quiet meditation.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*Stand as Able)

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

God hears the cries of all who call in need, and through his death and resurrection. Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984
Arr. © Oxford University Press.

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***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.

+ WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:5-12

[Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.]

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, and 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."

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23

The Psalm will be read in unison.

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

**²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

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

**⁴Though 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.**

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

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

[Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.]

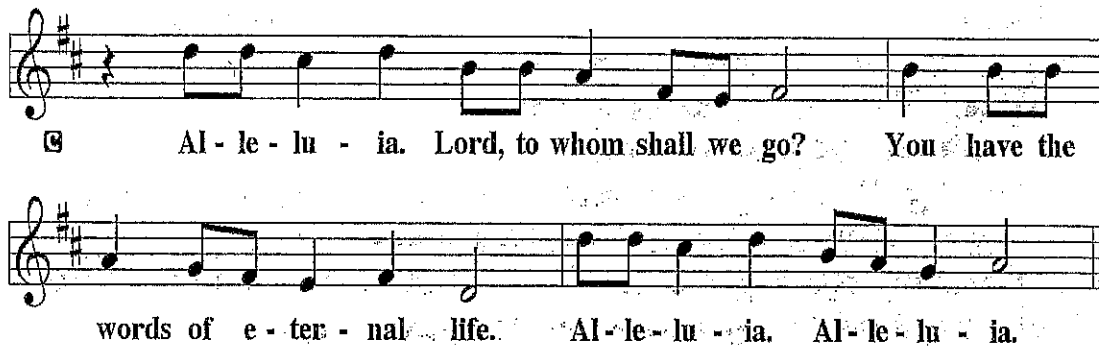
¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

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.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Holy Gospel, according to St. John the 10th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

* READING OF THE GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹I 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Not a Means to an End,
but to a New Beginning"

John 10:11-18

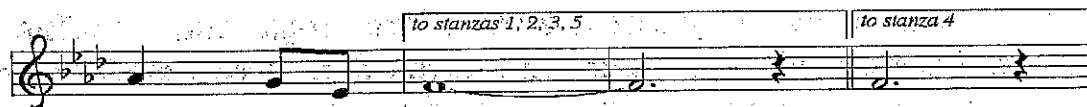
Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

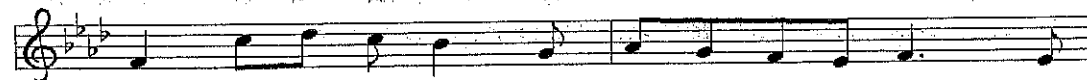


death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me, and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



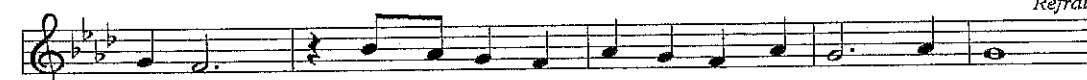
walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



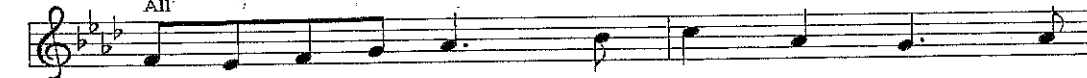
5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through Our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Here we lift up prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need. The congregation may respond with the bolded lines.

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.

A brief silence.

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 (*especially*). 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. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A Silence is offered for the prayers in our hearts.

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.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Greet one another saying, "Peace be with you.")

+ THANKSGIVING+

*OFFERTORY

884 red book

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

33

The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low-ed be

The first system of musical notation for the Lord's Prayer. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low-ed be".

thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be".

done, on earth as it is in heav - en.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "done, on earth as it is in heav - en.".

Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -".

give us our debts as we for-give our debt-ors; and

lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.

For thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er, and the

glo-ry for-ev-er. A-men

+ SENDING+

*BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG

789 red book

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

ORGAN MEDITATION

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***POSTLUDE**

Our Financial Stewardship Gifts

Weekly Needs	Rec'd 4/18	YTD Rec'd
\$3,546.00 (Current)	\$2,334.50	\$43,615.43
\$ 327.00 (Benev.)	\$ 217.50	\$ 3,399.50

Last Sunday Attendance: Sunday School 14; Worship Service 60

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS/ ACTIVITIES THIS COMING WEEK:

Today	-	9:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School
		10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday	-	9:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School
		10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Ministers serving in the worship service today:

Ministers	The baptized of St. John's
Pastor	Pastor Rachel Patterson
Organist	Kristin Gephart
Choir Director	Norma Colby
Ushers	Open
Acolyte Coordinator	Briana King & Kate Shaffer
Altar Guild	Kate Shaffer & Rachel Larson
Assisting Minister	Norma Colby
Lector	Kaitlyn Flory
Tellers	Sandy Longenecker & Ann Horman

Please remember that you will serve at next Sunday's 10:00 a.m.

Worship:

Assisting Minister- David Larson, **Lector-** Rachel Larson,

Ushers-Open, **Altar Guild-**Linda Gephart & Kathie Molesky, **Tellers-**
Sandy Longenecker & Betty Holloper.

Floral Offering:

The Eberenz Fund in honor of Charles' beloved church.

CD recordings of this service are available.