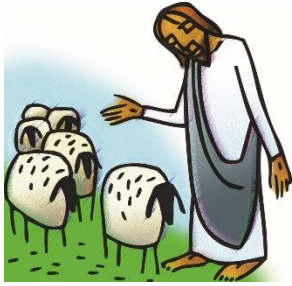


Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
I hope everyone is doing well. The service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter follows below. As with past weeks, there are links for hymns and the sermon within the service. May God give you on-going patience, peace and well-being.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor John



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG: *Shepherd Me O God*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmFM4jZasvs>

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

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. R
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. R

1 Peter 2:15-25

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

SERMON

<https://youtu.be/WytiNuWsGDc>

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will

have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites (*local colleges and seminaries may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. Grant your healing presence to all in need including all impacted by Covid 19. Fill with strength all who serve in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices. We pray for all on our parish prayer list and those known to us personally. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations (*local ministries may be named*). May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION

https://youtu.be/QgePJFvj1_M

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akb0kD7EHIk>

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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We are praying for the following:

Dawne	Frank	Alice
Jean	Bev	Pat
Robert	John	Sandy
Candy	Mary Ellen	John C.
John Jr.	Dick	Dot
Dennis	Bobby	Carol
Tim	Kathy E.	Alice
Phyllis	Pat	Zion Lutheran Church, Barnegat Light
Michelle	Carol	Judi
Cody	Bob	Toby
Ann	Irene	Leo
Lynn	Emit	family of Frank Lojek
Dot	Jeanette	