



Sunday, May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

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.

Opening Hymn....."Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Words and Music by
Naida Hearn



1. Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful
 2. Je - sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the
 3. Praise him, Lord a - bove all lords, King a - bove



Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. _____ Em -
 branch - es, Son _ of God. _____
 all kings, God's on - ly Son. _____ The



-man - u - el, God _ is with _ us, bless - ed Re -
 Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Lord of the
 Prince of Peace, who by his Spir - it comes to live



-deem - er, Liv - ing Word. _____
 u - ni - verse, Light of the world. _____
 in _____ us, Mas - ter and Friend. _____

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Here ends the reading.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Here ends the reading.

Special Music....."The Servant King"

Jenny Dorsch, Marcie Donavon, and Scott Sims

Gospel: John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

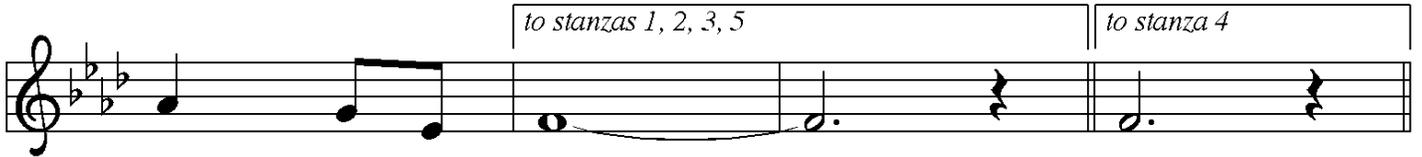
Sermon Song....."Shepherd Me, O God"

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.

Continued.



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



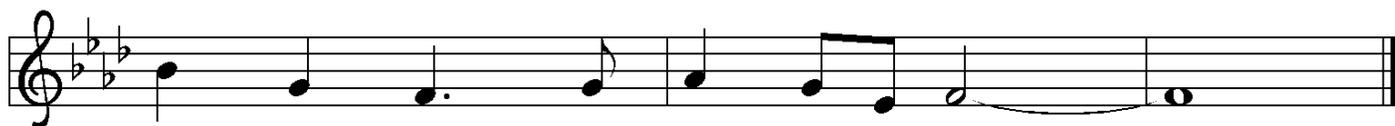
I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

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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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. 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 (*especially Judi, Don, Becky, Nancy, Doug, Christi, Collin, Vicki, Bernie, Ethan, David, Joy, Melody, Jason, Matt & Kristin, Sharon, Al, Mike, Michael, Dee, Tad, Lynne, Annika, Beth, Jack, Richard, Ruth, Jay, Gil, Joan, Lew, Chuck, and Oma, Ricky*). 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. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death (*especially Marie*). 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you.

This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also he took the cup after supper,
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying:
Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

Distribution of Communion

At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn....."I Look to the Shepherd"

I look to the Shep-herd, He meets all my needs; Be - side the still
6 wa-ters, He faith - ful - ly leads: Bring-ing peace to my soul,
12 — as His love makes me whole. **Chorus** Sure - ly good - ness and
18 mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me all the days of my
24 life. Sure-ly good-ness and mer-cy shall fol - low me all my
31 life. And when in the val-ley of deep-est des-
38 pair, I look to the Shep-herd, His pre-sence is there: Bring-ing peace
44 to my soul, as His love makes me whole. Sure - ly

Walt Harrah

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Dismissal

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