

Divine Service
Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 484 ss. 1-6 “Make Songs of Joy”

1. Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Alleluia!
He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia!

2. Our life was purchased by His loss; Alleluia!
He died our death upon the cross. Alleluia!

3. O death, where is your deadly sting? Alleluia!
Assumed by our triumphant King! Alleluia!

4. And where your victory, O grave, Alleluia!
When one like Christ has come to save? Alleluia!

5. Behold, the tyrants, one and all, Alleluia!
Before our mighty Savior fall! Alleluia!

6. For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
The Father, and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

Invocation

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

CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

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

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

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CONG..... 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.

Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

JOHN 10:14, 15b; PS. 23

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me,
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Even 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.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.
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.
I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me,
And I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-
being of the Church of God, and for the unity
of all let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
LORD.
CONG..... *Amen.*

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

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. Amen.

The First Reading: ACTS 4:1-12

1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,
2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.
3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.
4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.
5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem,
6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.
7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,
9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,
10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.
11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.
12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Gradual: Adapt. from MATT. 28:7; HEB. 2:7; PS 8:6
Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
He has put all things under his feet.

The Epistle: I JOHN 3:19-24

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure
our heart before him;

20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than
our heart, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have
confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we
keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name
of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has
commanded us.

24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and
God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the
Spirit whom he has given us.

Verse: ROM. 6:9; JOHN 10:14

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will
never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own
know me. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: ST. JOHN 10:11-15

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his
life for the sheep.

12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not
own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and
flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for
the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know
me,

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I
lay down my life for the sheep.

Choir: 490 ss. 1-5 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

3 Jesus lives! For me He died.
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever,
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell

Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense;
Jesus is my confidence!

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

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.

The Sermon Hymn: 578 ss. 1-6 "Thy Strong Word"

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee
While thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of thy salvation,
Breathed thine own life-giving breath.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

4. From the cross thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

5. Give us lips to sing thy glory,
Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats to shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

6. God the Father, light-creator,
To thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light from Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Sermon: "Where Things Are"

ST JOHN 10:11-15

The Offertory

CONG... Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Closing Hymn: 722 ss 1-3

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

1. Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

2. Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

3. Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD
make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you. The LORD look upon you with favor and †
give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Bill Abbott

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