

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Sunday, April 21, 2024

Vicar Sarah Sleeter



TODAY'S REFLECTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

"The King Of Love My Shepherd Is " page 9

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains.

Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life.

Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into
your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross.

Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full
potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the
wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have
placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives.

Amen.

God of resurrection
of life and death and rebirth
Renew our hearts and minds

God of promise
of all beginnings and all endings
Renew our hearts and minds

God of hope
of new growth and harvest
Renew our hearts and minds

(by John Birch, Faith and Worship Blogspot)

▲ **Absolution**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

▲ Prayer of the Day

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.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalms 23

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 right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 my whole life long.

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

The Second Reading is from 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And 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. All 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us" page 10

▲ The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the Church

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd! We see paintings of you leading spotless sheep through grassy meadows, not a speck of dirt on you. But real life is messy, dirty, and stony. Thank you for bearing us, and bearing with us, through it all. Thank you for leading us safely to your Father's house.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Good Shepherd, defend the Church from peril. Provide for its needs. Lead it in paths of righteousness and holiness. Use it to lead many to hear your voice and follow you. Bless pastors and bishops and make them faithful sheepdogs for your flock.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Faithful Shepherd, defend and strengthen your people when they are set upon by wolves and persecutors. Make them so lovely with faith that their enemies repent of their evil ways.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Dear Shepherd of this congregation, lead us with your Word. Prepare our table with your Body and Blood. Teach us to do your will with glad and faithful hearts. Use us to lead many into your safe keeping.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Wise Shepherd, raise up under-shepherds to teach and guide your people. Call those with a zeal for truth and knowledge into the classrooms of seminaries, colleges, and church-related schools. Call those with a heart for tending your flock into parish and campus ministry. Call those who are bold to witness to the faith into evangelization and mission among those who have not yet heard or heeded your voice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gate of your sheep, protect us all from false shepherds, especially rulers who care nothing for our welfare. Bring your people lasting peace, rich pasture, and true righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Rod and Staff of your people, bless those who stand in harm's way on our behalf. Guard, guide, and strengthen them. Prosper all they do that pleases you. Bring them home safely and soon.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Light and Path through death's dark valley, be the strong guide and sure comfort of all who walk therein, *especially we pray for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Fill them with your abundant life. Keep them steadfast in faith. Strengthen and bless all who care for them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing safely home all those who listened to your voice in this earthly life. Keep us close to your side. Lead us to that place where we shall dwell with you and with all the redeemed and shall feast at your heavenly Table forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

April—June Mission Designation

Fortune Lake

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the 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 and Distribution of Communion**

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

Shepherding God,
**you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.**
Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

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.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

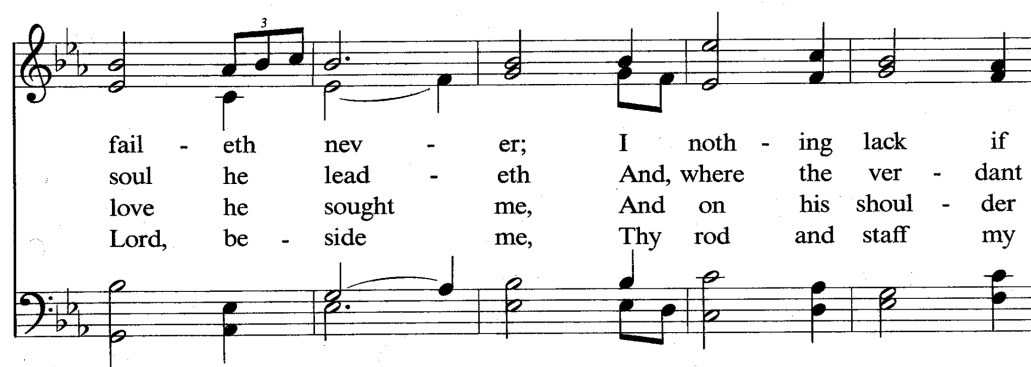
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

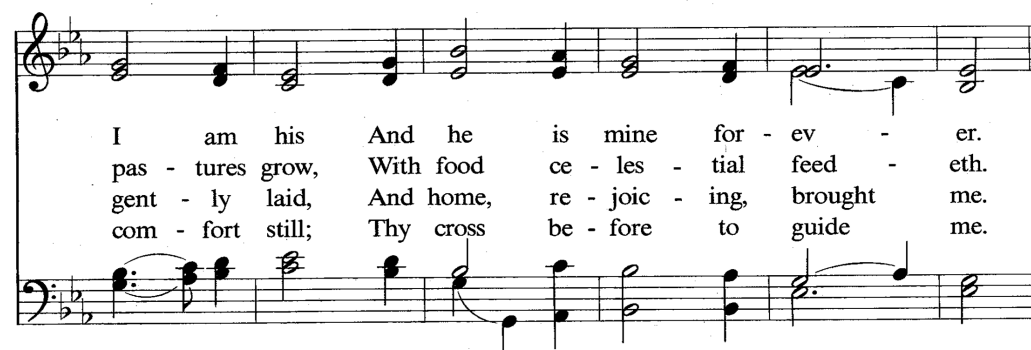
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1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; Thy cross be - fore 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.

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.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near, When my life is al - most gone,
 near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen; arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus, b.1966

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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