

✠ **COMMUNION** ✠

Pastor: We declare ourselves to be Easter people:

People: We have come to share in the table that He has prepared for us.

Pastor: Jesus took the bad news of sin and guilt and changed it to good news through His dying and rising for us.

People: We are here to celebrate that Good News and the presence of Christ with us.

Pastor: And Jesus took the bread, blessed it and broke it. He said to His disciples -

People: “Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Pastor: Also, He took a cup of wine. After saying thanks, He gave it to them saying -

People: “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: We thank You, Lord God, for these elements given in love for us. Accept us, forgive us, and heal us - that we might live lives that are pleasing to you. For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

BENEDICTION

HYMN “This Is My Father’s World” [REC 34 vs. 1-3]

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve our risen Lord!

People: Thanks be to God and WE WILL! ALLELUIA!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Good Shepherd–May 11, 2025

AS WE GATHER

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

PRESERVICE SONGS “Because He Lives” Chris Tomlin
“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)” John Wilbur Chapman

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd” [REC 205 vs. 1, 2, & 4]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Based on Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray;

People: we have turned every one to his own way;

Pastor: and the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross

People: that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Silence for reflection and examination.

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

People: 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.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" [LBW 352 verses 1, 2, & 8]

FIRST READING *Acts 20:17–35*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Revelation 7:9–17*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:22–30*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "What's A Mother To Do" 2 Timothy 1:5

SERMON SONG "Children of the Heavenly Father" [LBW 474 all 4 verses]

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep.

Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for [names, and] all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. [Hear us especially for names, that they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, You have given us a mirror of Your love in the vocation of mothers who nurture, guide and raise their children in all things good. Bless them in their calling. Sustain them through weary and difficult times. Remember in compassion all who are barren, and bring them comfort through the children of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your shepherding care. Bring us at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,

People: Amen.