

✠ The Order of Service ✠
April 21, 2024

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48*

P Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

C **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

P To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

C **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

C **And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P Peace be with you!
C **Peace be with you!**

Please share the peace with those around you.

PSALM *Psalm 23*

A The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
C **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

A He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
C **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.**

A You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
C **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**All 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE #474, vv 1 & 5 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain: **Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**5. City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! [Refrain]**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 4:1–12* (Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:16–24* (Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

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

C Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11–18* (*Jesus prays for and about His disciples.*)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *The First Article*

P As our Good Shepherd leads us, even so our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

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

P What does this mean?

C I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

P He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

C He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

**1 The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.**

**2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.**

**3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.**

**4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before 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!**

SERMON

PRAYER ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS ARE PRESENTED

OFFERTORY *(p.176 in hymnal)*

**C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
And will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now
In the presence of all His people,**

**In the courts of the Lord's house,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Acts 4:34–35*

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God. You call us to be Your people and invite us to bring our cares to You in prayer. You did so love the world that You sent Your only Son to be our Redeemer. By His sacrificial life and death and glorious resurrection He has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Pour upon us now the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord with true devotion in this sacred fellowship of Your pilgrim people. Grant us a foretaste of the feast to come, heavenly Father, that we may with increased faith joyfully await a blessed eternity in Your glorious presence.

C **Amen.**

SANCTUS HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise
Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns
Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise You, with saints and angels.
Holy and bless'd through all eternity.**

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LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI HYMN O Lamb of God, We Pray

**O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away—Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.**

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DISTRIBUTION

(After all have received communion)

BLESSING ON COMMUNICANTS

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C Amen.

HYMN #774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

**Feed Thy children, God most holy;
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,
Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish,
May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor
At Thy feast due thanks we render.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve You all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

C Amen.

HYMN #740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

3 Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

POSTLUDE

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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