



# 4th Sunday of Easter

## + Sunday, April 25, 2021 +

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### Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Psalmody

*Psalm 23*

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**C: He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

L: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

**C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

**C: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**C: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

[1] This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow:  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now has Christ arisen!

[2] Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver:  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now has Christ arisen!

[3] My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number:  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now has Christ arisen!

## **New Testament**

**Acts 4:1-12**

*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 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. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 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."*

**L:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

**1 John 3:16-24**

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know*

*that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**John 10:11-18**

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

#710

[1] The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

[2] My soul He doth restore again  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's sake.

[3] Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

[4] My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

[5] Goodness and mercy, all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

**Sermon** (video available <https://youtu.be/pbnALTW2Y3g>)

## Apostles' Creed

**C: 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.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.

### **Collect**

**L:** 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.**

### **Blessing**

**L:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**L:** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

#711

- [1] Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Your fold prepare;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.
- [2] We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.
- [3] You have promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful through we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.
- [4] Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.