

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion **is** a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

### **Prelude**

### **Word of Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**     *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*LSB 709*

### **Confession & Absolution**

Page 184

### **Introit**

P: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

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

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

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

P: 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.

**C: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P: 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.**

P: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Kyrie** Page 186

**Gloria in Excelsis** Page 187

**Salutation and Collect of the Day** Page 189

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: 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.**

**First Reading** *Acts 4:1-12*

**Gradual**

**ALL: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Amen.**

**Epistle** *1 John 3:16-24*

**Alleluia** Page 190

**Holy Gospel** *John 10:11-18*

**Nicene Creed** Page 191

**Hymn of the Day** *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* *LSB 524*

**Sermon Theme** *"Confident Christians"*  
**Text** *1 John 3:18-24*

**Prayer of the Church**

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

Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, You alone gather us as Your sheep and send faithful shepherds to us. Call all who have wandered from Your flock, and bless the faithful shepherds who gather them through the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, Your Son has called us to love our brothers. Turn us in love toward the neighbors closest to us, especially within our own homes, that we may daily show our confidence in God by deed and truth, laying down our lives as Christ first did for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, by the firstfruits of Christ's life from the dead, You secured forgiveness for our troubled consciences. Bless also with temporal health and well-being those who suffer among us. Grant them aid in this moment and, even more so, true, immortal health in the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son's testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd — not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; 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.**

## **Service of the Sacrament**

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