

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

L: for you are with me;

C: 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, and my cup is running over.

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

C: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

OPENING HYMN #Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (vs. 1-3)

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou; Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted; here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone.
So that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

BAPTISM OF JACK ADAM BRAGER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: Amen.

L: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

L: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord Christ,

C: **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.**

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:5-12 ⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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.

¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:16-24 ¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 [Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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."

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #481 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

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.

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.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though 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 thee.

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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #501 He Leadeth Me (vs. 1-3)

He leadeth me: oh blessed thought!
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
What-e'er I do, where-e'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

REFRAIN He leadeth me, he leadeth me. By his own hand, he leadeth me.
His faithful follower I will be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. **REFRAIN**

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine.
Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **REFRAIN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WELCOME JACK ADAM BRAGER into our church family. Jack will be baptized this on Sunday, April 25. He is the son of Adam & Angela (Holan) Brager and the brother of Grace & Liam. His sponsors are Joe Holan and Emily Brager.

OUR SYMPATHIES & PRAYERS the families of

- **Laurie Duden** (Brenda Martin's aunt and Warren Wilson's sister). Laurie passed away on April 16.
- **Melba Tengesdal** (Tamara Siburg's grandmother)/ Melba also died on April 16.



Haskins

Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Mary Krantz, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES:

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 9 am on ZOOM

CONFIRMATION meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm (Hybrid; In person & Virtual)

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, April 27th at 7 pm**. A great time to enjoy an Escape Room Game. Please wear a mask.

PRE-CONFIRMATION (6th Graders) - Wednesday, **May 12th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM** (5 sessions) at ELC. These gatherings are intended to enhance our Confirmation experience. Please wear a mask. Sign up by emailing Brenda.

2021 ELC SUMMER FUN (Save the dates)

- **VBS/DAY CAMP 2021 - JULY 12 - 15th 9:30 - 11:30 am** (Youth ages 3 - 5th grade)
ONLINE SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/3FCz1yfrYqQEcxph6> A time to be together outside in God's creation.
- **EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm** (Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Email Brenda to sign up.
- **CONFIRMATION CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK - July 25 - 30th, (7th & 8th)** Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org
- **GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Service days) - New for 2021** - Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities. This provides us with helping our neighbors all summer, and allowing flexibility for our youths with their summer schedules. **REGISTER online:** (Link can be emailed as well) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

STARLA'S SEASONINGS Youth Fundraiser for April 5th - May 2nd Starla's seasoning blends are as unique as their names and are sure to complement any event. These seasonings are made in Wisconsin, made with the finest quality ingredients. **TO ORDER:** Complete the **SIGN UP LINK** below OR order at church after the worship services (April 11, 18, 25) **ONLINE SIGN UP LINK:** <https://forms.gle/y5voPtvH5LqjCRVYA> Funds raised will go towards our youth summer trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 and a mission trip.



DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 25, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 95, A Call to Worship and Obedience

Tuesday, Revelation 7:13-17, The Multitude from Every Nation

Wednesday, Mark 14:26-31, Peter's Denial Foretold

Thursday, Psalm 22:25-31, Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility

Friday, Amos 8:11-13, The Basket of Fruit

Saturday, John 14:8-14, Jesus the Way to the Father

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.... 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."* John 10:14, 16. Jesus states that he is the Good shepherd who will lay down his life for his flock which also includes those who are considered outsiders to the fold.

- What do you images or thoughts come to mind when you hear about the Good Shepherd?
- Who in our communities might be considered outsiders to the fold, whom Jesus says will be included to be one flock together?
- How might you be able to welcome and include those considered outsiders?

PRAY: 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.**

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.