

SUNDAY- APRIL 30, 2023 -9:00 AM



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON
BARRY HOERZ

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 30, 2023 | 4th Sunday of Easter | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

789 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS:

"Into My Heart"

"Fill My Cup"

GREETING

L: 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

L: O God our shepherd,

C: you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"*
"Today Is the Day"

FIRST READING - Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 20,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: John 20:1-10

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has

brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor Barry Hoerz

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

773 - Precious Lord, Take My Hand

OFFERING – (please pass the pew pads at this time)

MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM: *“I Will Follow”*

OFFERTORY #186 *“Create in me...”*

THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words: “Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**)

+THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 145) (right hand column)

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

790 - Day By Day

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2023

SHARE: What are your highs/lows for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, John 14:8-14, Show Us the Father

Tuesday, Hebrews 13:20-21, A Benediction

Wednesday, Jeremiah 23:1-8, Restoration after Exile

Thursday, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, Prayer and Praise

Friday, Exodus 3:1-12, Moses and the Burning Bush

Saturday, Jeremiah 26:20-24, Jeremiah's Prophecies

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
– John 10:10**

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

- How do you figure out whom to believe, whom to follow? (John 10:1-10)
- If you could cultivate any one faith practice in your congregation, what would it be? (Acts 2:42-47)
- What injustice stirs you so much that you would sacrifice just about anything to create change? (1 Pet 2:19-25)

PRAY: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.