



First Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday

Order of Worship, May 8, 2022

In Person or On-line via Zoom

Leading in Worship today: Pastor Mark Southard, Liturgist Hannah Cross

Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship

(One) Come and worship!

(All) **We are here, with God's Spirit among us.**

(One) God reveals God's self to us today:

(All) **As the Good Shepherd, giver of rest and comfort;**

(One) As the Holy Lamb, worthy of our eternal praise;

(All) **As the giver of new life, and new hope.**

(One) We are here, with God's Spirit among us.

(All) **We worship you, Holy Trinity.**

Opening Prayer

Holy Lamb and Gentle Shepherd, we are here, the sheep of your pasture. Lead us in your ways. We come, from every nation and every language. We come, needing rest and wanting challenge. We come, kneeling in awe and standing in the promise of new life. We come with Peter, with Tabitha, with John, with the psalmist, and with the heavenly hosts, as we sing to you over and over: "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor . . . be to our God forever!" Bless this time of worship, Beautiful Savior, and guide us to springs of your living water. Amen

* **Hymn #187 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



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This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of confession (unison)

Jesus our Lord, we ask for your forgiveness— for what we have done, but shouldn't have, for what we should have done, but didn't. We yearn to hear your voice, Gentle Shepherd, but listen to our own voices instead. We want to care for our sisters and brothers, to comfort them when they hurt, to give what we have to people who have less, but we choose to hoard our resources and time. Forgive us, Lord, and help us forgive ourselves too for everything we name before you now . . .

(prayer continues in silence)

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Children of God, hear these words of promise: Christ our Shepherd joyfully welcomes us back into the fold of love and freedom, teaching us to know his voice. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven. Praise and thanks to God!

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

An Introduction to the Word for all Ages

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, grant that these words we hear may be received with newness of life and be printed on our hearts. We pray that your Spirit may work in us so that we may be inspired, each and every day, to follow in the ways of Christ and be witnesses of his resurrection. Amen.

First Reading Acts 9:36-43

Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17

(L) This is the word of the Lord

(P) **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading John 10:22-30

Sermon "A Very Special Shepherd"

* **Hymn #299** "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

This hymn resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9-11. This 18th-century tune has had many names; the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714-1901.

Affirmation of Faith - (Psalm 23 NKJV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, 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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell a in the house of the LORD Forever.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

In this season of Easter rejoicing, let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings saying,

O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the goodness of the earth, that it may flourish with flowing waters, verdant pastures, and paths that lead us to protect and care for your creation. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the peace and welfare of the world, that all our tables of work and worship promote the understanding and dignity that transform enemies into friends. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For all who suffer with sickness, need, or danger, that all our afflictions and fears are met with healing and the comforting presence of your voice. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the blessings we receive and share, that we may live a life of ceaseless praise for the salvation that is ours through you. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the saints in light, that you will wipe every tear from their eyes as they dwell with you eternally. O Risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

Holy God, you are our hope and our strength, our light and our sovereign, our shepherd and our savior. With all the saints in heaven and on earth, we praise your holy name and entrust every care to you; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Now let us pray together the prayer our Savior taught us...

“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

Call to Stewardship

We invite you to give your offerings with a joyful and generous heart. Whether you choose to offer gifts of money, prayer, talents, service, or witness, we encourage you to give as the Spirit leads. Like Tabitha, in Acts, let us be devoted to seeking good and to doing charity together.

Offertory - Janice Shinn

(You will find the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. You are invited to place your offering there as you leave the service today.)

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we give our gifts to you now, knowing that you transform our earthly offerings into heavenly blessings. May we desire to hear and know your voice, that we may worship you night and day, and fall down before your throne. In your name, through the power of your Spirit, we pray together. Amen

Charge and Benediction

Go forth to follow paths of righteousness; go forth to follow paths of peace; and may God's goodness and mercy follow you as you serve the risen Lord.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

Parting Song: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Announcements:

- We will be pausing our study of the Gospel of John on Wednesday evenings for a couple of months as our team pursues the discernment phase of the Houses of Hope Program from Austin Seminary.
- Still looking for Volunteers to help with VBS, May 23-27th.

Prayer Requests:

Matt and Rebecca Ware	Juhree Vanderpool	Tom Sissons
Diane Shafer	Dennis Backhaus	Kathleen Simons
Pastor Mark Mozeik (St John's Lutheran)		

Contact Pastor Mark Southard:
Phone (580) 352-4604
Email wmsouthard@me.com