

St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda, NY

April 30th, 2023



AS WE GATHER

Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.

LSB 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

He leads us and restores our souls.

He walks beside us through the darkness

and never abandons us, even in death.

He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

and we will dwell in His house forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection.

Heavenly Father,

we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.

Introit

I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.
Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on High,
*and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we
worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O
Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten
Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away
the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the
world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O
Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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 2:42–47*

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 Peter 2:19–25*

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but

continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *John 10:1–10*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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.

LSB 527 O Savior. Precious Savior

Sermon

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend us as our Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.