

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #552: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”** - see slides

**SERMON: “Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep”**

*(Based on John 10:11-18)*

1. See the commitment of the Shepherd.
2. See the contentment of the sheep.

**THE NICENE CREED** (page 180) - see slides

**EASTER PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (spoken responsively) - see slides

**OFFERING PRESENTATION - HYMN #461** - see slides

**THE SACRAMENT** - see slides

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD’S PRAYER** - see slides

**COMMUNION HYMN #553: “The Lord’s My Shepherd”** - see slides

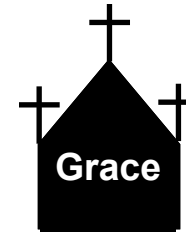
**PRAYER & BLESSING** - see slides

**CLOSING HYMN #804: “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”** - see slides

*Worship Music Leader: Amibeth Olderman*

*Thank you to all who served in our worship service today!*

*Last Week’s Attendance: Sunday: 8:00 - 75; 10:45 - 26; Monday: 19; Total: 120*



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**RESURRECTION REALITY**  
**“THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES**  
**GOOD SHEPHERDING”**

**April 21 & 22, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**“THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING”**  
**April 21 & 22, 2024**

*In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.*

**Listening Assist Aids are available. Please see an usher.**

**Our Communion Practice**

*In obedience to God's Word and in loving concern for the spiritual welfare of others, we practice closed communion, participating in this wonderful supper. By limiting communion at our altar to those of our faith and fellowship we are not trying to judge non-members' personal faith. We are acting in accord with the Lord's will concerning the administration of the Sacrament. Those of our faith and fellowship, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), but not of our congregation, should announce to the pastor personally prior to taking Communion with us for the first time.*

**Today's Theme: “THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING”**

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

**The Service - Service Setting Two with Sacrament pg. 172**

**OPENING HYMN #551: “Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep” - see slides**

**CONFESSION - see slides**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie - see slides**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST - Gloria in Excelsis - see slides**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken by Pastor - ALL speak the Amen)**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 20:28–32**

*The good shepherd asks his sub-shepherds to keep watch over the flock.*

<sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup>Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23 - see slides**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 4:1-6**

*St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.*

<sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. <sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - see slides**

**GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

*Jesus explains why he is the good shepherd.*