



The Season of Easter

Gathering

Prelude “Festal Flourish” Gordon Jacob

Opening Hymn #205 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!
(See bulletin p.13)

All standing, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise #432 O Praise Ye the Lord!
(See bulletin p.14)

Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Readings

The First Reading: Acts 4:5–12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Ananias the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Second Reading: 1 John 3:16–24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

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

And 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. All 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

#711 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

(See bulletin p.15)

The Gospel: John 10:11–18



Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,

who 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We 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.*

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by
water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the
forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus
Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Reader: We open our hearts and minds and pray to you God.
We pray for the church around the world, may we find
we are sisters and brothers and stop finding what di-
vides us.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for this nation and all the nations of the world
that they may consider the common good and hold up

the least of these.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for those whose lives have been touched by violence and angry, hateful words. We ask you to remind us of your grace, mercy, and love for all you have created.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for you to hold these prayers for our communities and especially for the homeless and those who struggle.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We lift up to you the concerns of those here present and those not with us especially:

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you for the beauty of your creation and all the blessings of this life. For those things which remind us of You.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for the comfort of those who grieve and peace to the departed (especially...)

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude with the following or some other suitable prayer:

Celebrant: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Peace

The peace is exchanged:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

[Click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry by donating online.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (*Ephesians 5:2*)

Offertory Hymn #664 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
(See bulletin p.16)

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues:

Celebrant: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: The cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All: Dying, you destroyed our death.
 Rising, you restored our life.
 Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us with all your
people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our
God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All: Blessed are you now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. *Alleluia!*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins - of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn

#343 Shepherd of Souls

(See bulletin p.17)

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

St. Augustine's Prayer Book, p.192

Celebrant: Our Jesus, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. We love you above all things and we desire you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. As though you were already there, we embrace you and unite ourselves wholly to you; never permit us to be separated from you. ***Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

After communion, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past;
What we shall be, through you, still awaits us.
Lead us on. Take us with you. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Celebrant: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn #518 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
(See bulletin p.17)

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

People: Thanks be to God. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude “Postlude” Flor Peeters

Servers

<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Rev. Annette Joseph
<i>Reader</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Host</i>	Doc & Karen Cain
<i>Organist</i>	Mary Miller
<i>Choir Director</i>	Randyn Heisserer-Miller
<i>Ministry Intern</i>	Joshua Smith

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Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5, Norman Mealy (b. 1923)
 Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

888 with Alleluias

1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him up - on earth,
 * 3 O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanks - giv - ing and song

re - joice in his word, ye an - gels of light;
 in tune - ful ac - cord, all ye of new birth;
 each ju - bi - lant chord re - ech - o a - round;
 to him be out - poured all a - ges a - long!

ye hea - vens, a - dore him by whom ye were made,
 praise him who hath brought you his grace from a - bove,
 loud or - gans, his glo - ry forth tell in deep tone,
 For love in cre - a - tion, for hea - ven re - stored,

and wor - ship be - fore him, in bright - ness ar - rayed.
 praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
 and sweet harp, the sto - ry of what he hath done.
 for grace of sal - va - tion, O praise ye the Lord!

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.; based on Psalms 148 and 150
 Music: *Laudate Dominum*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

10 10. 11 11

711

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God



1 Seek ye — first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
 seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



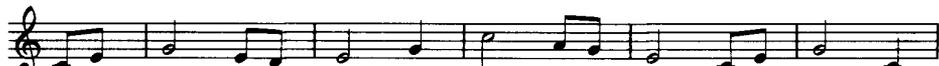
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7.
 Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.

Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty (20th cent.)

13. 11. 7 with Alleluias

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
 is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
 all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream. _____
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. _____
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise. _____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
 ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
 go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. _____
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head. _____
 or a guest, but like a child at home. _____

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23

Music: *Resignation*, American folk melody

CMD

1 Shep-herd of souls, re-fresh and bless thy cho-sen
 2 We would not live by bread a-lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break-ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di-vine, thy Bo-dy

pil-grim flock with man-na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de-part; Sa-rior, a-bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv-ing bread, that

wil-der-ness, with wa-ter from the rock.
 trav-el on to our a-bid-ing-place.
 us, and spread thy ta-ble in our heart.
 heaven-ly wine, be our im-mor-tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.

Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937),
 after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

CM

Descant

4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv-ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded-i-cat-ed ci-ty, dear-ly loved of
 3 To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv-ants what they ask of

17

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion,
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
 Music: *Westminster Abbey*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt.; desc. James Gillespie (b. 1929)

87. 87. 87

Notes on the Service

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 • Ps. 23 • 1 Jn. 3:16-24 • John 10:11-18

Today is called **Good Shepherd Sunday** because the modern collect, the psalm, and the Gospel all feature the image of the good shepherd. The first reading, the epistle and the Gospel state that Christ laid down his life for us, which is an attribute of the Good Shepherd, according to John.

Today's section of the Acts shows Peter on the day after the episode reported last Sunday, when through Peter and John, Christ had healed a lame man. After that the authorities had taken the two apostles into custody on a charge of disturbing the temple's peace. At their hearing, Peter claims that the Healer of the man was Jesus of Nazareth, whom the high priests had executed. Peter supports his case by appealing to Psalm 118 that a stone discarded by masons will become the cornerstone of God's new temple.

THE Good Shepherd Psalm, Ps. 23, is a song of an individual, according to tradition David who had been a shepherd, although it is difficult to see what would prompt David to wish to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" when the house had not yet been built in David's lifetime, unless David were speaking metaphorically, as we do when we use this psalm at funerals. Ps.23:5, "anointed my head with oil," could be said of any Israelite who was blessed, or it might suggest the ritually-anointed King David and the messiah.

The paramount expression of love is the giving of one's life, as in Christ's giving his life for us, and in turn our giving our lives for each other, says the epistle. Anyone who truly loves shows love in actions, not merely in words. Those actions disclose the presence of the Spirit of Christ.

In John's Gospel, a long speech about the Good Shepherd follows the controversy between Jesus and some Pharisees provoked by Jesus' healing of a blind man on the Sabbath. As any Pharisee would have known, the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah as well as various psalmists had called God the Shepherd of Israel. Most pointedly, Ezekiel had denounced Israel's leaders of his time as bad shepherds. Jesus implies that the current leaders of Jerusalem resemble those Ezekiel had criticized when Jesus calls himself the good shepherd who "lays down his life for the sheep," in contrast with hirelings who flee. Just before this passage, Jesus had called the Pharisees worse than blind because they know what they are doing. By "other sheep" Jesus must mean Gentiles, outside the conventionally-defined flock of God.

On April 25, the church calendar observes the martyred evangelist, Mark, from whose Gospel we are reading during 2021. The feast is transferred to Monday, even in churches named Mark, because of Eastertide. Scholars think that this Gospel is the pattern on which Matthew and Luke elaborated.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Saint Louis, Missouri