

***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

**3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** The sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd, Alleluia;

**All:** **he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Alleluia!**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – LHS 391**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

**The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His,  
And He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid,  
And home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy Cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever.**

*Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) Public Domain*

**L:** Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of each other.

**C:** **We confess to you, almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and to each other, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

**M:** Jesus is our Good Shepherd and has assured our days dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** Let us call on the Lord, to whom we belong through our baptism.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our good shepherd:

**C: Lord have mercy.**

**M:** You give your life for the sheep:

**C: Christ have mercy.**

**M:** You gather us into your flock:

**C: Lord have mercy.**

**M:** The Lord be with you,

**C: And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray that we follow our good shepherd:

Loving God, we thank you that your Son Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for your people.

Open our hearts to hear his voice,

to know him as he calls us by name, and to follow wherever he leads.

For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## First Reading – Acts 2:42-47

### *Life and worship in the apostolic church*

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*R:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,
- <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;

- your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

## **Second Reading – 1 Peter 2:19-25**

### *The shepherd and bishop of our souls*

<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**L:** Alleluia, Alleluia.

Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has any power over him. Alleluia.

**All:** **Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd.**

**The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'**

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading – John 10:1-10**

*(Spoken)* **Glory to you, O Lord,  
Light of the world.**

*Jesus, the gate for the sheep*

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. <sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come

before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

*L:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for being the gate for the sheep to enter into life.  
Lead us to know you and to follow you.  
Amen.**

### **Hymn – The Lord’s My Shepherd LHS 387**

**The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E’en for His own name’s sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;**

**For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling-place shall be.**

*Scottish Psalter 1650. JS Irvine 1836-1887 (1872) Public Domain*

## **Sermon**

**All: 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, dead, and 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.**

**Offering Hymn – Have no fear, little flock  
LHS 867**

**Have no fear, little flock;  
have no fear, little flock,  
for the Father has chosen  
to give you the kingdom;  
have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock;  
have good cheer, little flock,  
for the Father will keep you  
in his love forever;  
have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above;  
praise the Lord high above,  
for he stoops down to heal you,**

**uplift and restore you;  
praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God;  
thankful hearts raise to God,  
for he stays close beside you,  
in all things works with you;  
thankful hearts raise to God!**

*Heinz Werner Zimmermann 1930 Public Domain*

**L:** Eternal loving Shepherd,  
your Son laid down his life for us, his sheep.  
Help us to follow him  
by loving and serving the people around us.

**All: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the church**

Lord, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

**All: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*M:* May the God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will

Go in peace. The Lord is your shepherd, who cares for his sheep.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*M:* 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 favour,  
† and give you peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn- Jesus, where'er thy people meet LHS 506**

**Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,  
There they behold Thy mercy-seat;**

**Where'er they seek Thee, Thou art found,  
And every place is hallowed ground.**

**For Thou, within no walls confined,  
Inhabitest the humble mind;  
Such ever bring Thee where they come,  
And going, take Thee to their home.**

**Dear Shepherd of Thy chosen few,  
Thy former mercies here renew;  
Here, to our waiting hearts, proclaim  
The sweetness of Thy saving Name**

**Here may we prove the power of prayer  
To strengthen faith and sweeten care;  
To teach our faint desires to rise,  
And bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**Lord, we are few, but Thou art near;  
Nor short Thine arm, nor deaf Thine ear;  
Oh, rend the heavens, come quickly down,  
And make a thousand hearts Thine own.**

*Music: W. Knapp (1698-1768)*

*Words: William Cowper (1731-1800)*

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