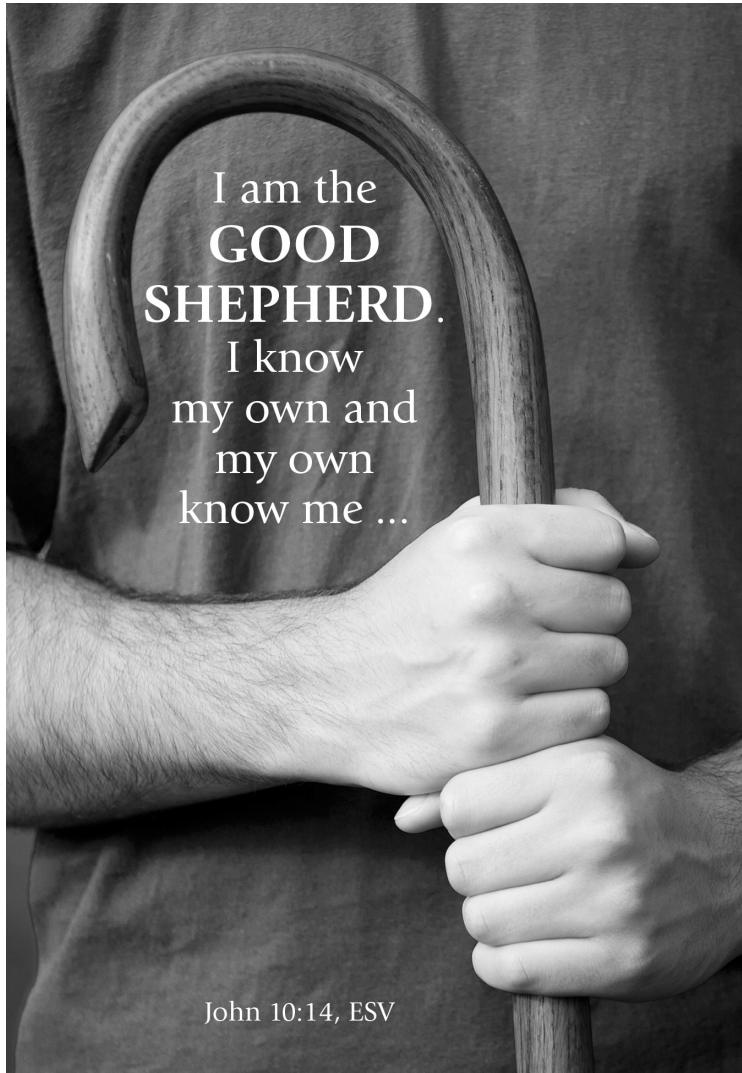


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR PLANS FALL  
THROUGH?  
- WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO LISTEN -

## *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH** | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

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*May 3, 2020*

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at [www.stpaulswr.org/watch](http://www.stpaulswr.org/watch). You can also contact us via email or phone ([churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

### **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of shepherd and sheep are certainly familiar to modern Christians, but do those concepts resonate as deeply for us as they did for the people of God 2000 years ago? "In such a landscape as Judea, where a day's pasture is thinly scattered over an unfenced tract of country, covered with delusive paths, frequented by wild beasts, and rolling off into the desert, the shepherd and his character are indispensable. On some high moor, across which at night the hyenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judea sprang to the front in his people's history; why they gave his name to their kings; why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice." (George Smith) On Good Shepherd Sunday we see how sharp the contrast is between true shepherds and false shepherds. All is determined by their relationship to Christ, the only gate for the sheep.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is white, signifying the victory and perfection that comes to believers through faith in Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

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<sup>1</sup> The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

Divine Service II. Text: © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. Music: Stephen P. Stake and Dale Witte © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903  
Hymns marked CW can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

# DIVINE SERVICE II

*A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church intended to be used when Holy Communion is celebrated.*

## WELCOME

## HYMN

*Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep | CW 436*

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C): Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.*

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

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

## GLORY BE TO GOD

*sung to the tune in CW 391*

♪ All glory be to God on high!

Your name, O Lord, we glorify;

We praise you for your peace and grace,

Your favor toward our fallen race.

O Lamb of God, to you we pray.

You take all human sin away.

Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;

From God's right hand, your mercy share.

You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;

The Father's glory you made known.

We by your Spirit sing again:

"All glory be to God!" Amen. ♪

## *The Word*

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### SALUTATION

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

*This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the Sacrament section (when celebrated) of the service.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down his 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 him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

*When all else fails, hold onto the teaching you've received.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23 | CW p.72

*Refrain:* ♪ The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want. ♪

The LORD is my 'shepherd,\*  
I shall not 'be in want.

He makes me lie down in green 'pastures;\*  
He leads me beside quiet 'waters.

He re'stores my soul;\*  
He guides me in paths of righteousness  
for his 'name's sake.

Even 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.

*Refrain*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my 'enemies.\*  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup 'overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me  
all the days 'of my life\*  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for'ever.

Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son\*  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,\*  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:19-25

*When all else fails, follow the example of the Shepherd.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: I am the good shepherd;

**C: I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.** *(John 10:14)*

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

*John 10:1-10*

*When all else fails, listen to the Shepherd.*

*After the Gospel, the announcement is made:*

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is | CW 375*

## SERMON - JESUS CARES FOR HIS SHEEP

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **THANK OFFERING**

*St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.*



### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*The Good Shepherd*

*Please stand.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- M:** Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the gospel and have feasted in the green pastures of your Holy Word. Bless your Word in our lives.
- C:** Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next. What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for the sheep—even sheep like us.

- M: Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we wander from you and stray from the call of your voice. Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one. When Satan comes in the sheep's clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us in your truth.
- C: When temporary pleasure beckons us to follow the wide road to hell, use your rod and staff to curb our sinful nature and lead us in paths of righteousness.**
- M: Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful under-shepherds—pastors who proclaim your death and resurrection as they minister to the souls in their care.
- C: Give all ministers of the gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.**
- M: Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident, or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms, and embrace them with the warmth of your love.
- C: Carry them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy in their lives.**
- M: Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your "other sheep." Let your voice be heard in all the world. Prosper the work of our missionaries at home and abroad.
- C: Give us all the zeal and courage to share with our friends and neighbors the good news of sins forgiven. Use our witness to gather the elect into one fold under your care.**

*Special Prayers and intercessions*

- M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

- M: Eternal Shepherd, when our days on earth come to an end and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home.

- C: There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*This hymn is often taught to little children, but its comforting message of Jesus' care and protection applies to everyone, young and old.*

*Please stand.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

| CW p.25

M: Let us pray together.

**C: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear, read, learn and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*

*Be seated.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need | CW 374*



## TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Acts 2 gives us a beautiful picture of the early Christian Church. How does what we do at St. Paul's mirror that group of believers? What can we add or change in our church to match the model they gave?
2. Even though we celebrate today as Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus' familiar "I am the Good Shepherd" statement isn't included in the Gospel reading. What "I am" statement is included? How are they similar? How are they different?
3. In John 10 the sheep know who to follow based on the voice of the shepherd. They knew it so well that anyone else who called would be ignored. Where do we find the voice of our Good Shepherd? How do we become familiar with his voice?
4. Society during Jesus' time was very familiar with shepherds and the important role they played, so calling himself the Good Shepherd would have resonated with his initial audience. Shepherds are no longer an integral part of our society. Can you think of a modern illustration that would carry equal weight in today's world?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SCRIP STILL AVAILABLE

In April, St. Paul's Scrip program generated \$131.41 to support our school. This is down 77% from March, so we want to remind everyone that scrip is still available for sale. Purchases can be made in several ways: 1) You can still purchase or order physical cards during office hours. 2) You can order physical cards online, and pay for them online or by mailing a check to the church. These cards will be delivered to the church, where you can pick them up. 3) You can order virtual scrip online, pay for it online, and have immediate access to the card for online purchases or to print and take with you. Your continued use of scrip will help support our school.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

*May 7*

While we are not having an organized event for the National Day of Prayer (the first Thursday in May each year), we encourage you to set aside time this Thursday to pray for our nation, its leaders, our economy, and this health crisis. If you have a hymnal at home, there are prayers for our nation on page 130 & 136, plus hymns 617-620 are sung prayers for our nation. Some of these hymns can also be found at [online.nph.net/cw-hymn-downloads](http://online.nph.net/cw-hymn-downloads).

## ATTENTION KNITTERS/CROCHETERS!



Need a project to use up small scraps of yarn? Looking for a project to fill your time at home these days? Willing Workers are asking for your help in making mini prayer shawls (about 4 inches x 4 inches) for our church to give as gifts for outreach or our own ministry at St. Paul's. Please ask for the pattern via email ([churchoffice@stpaulswr.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulswr.org)) or pick up a paper copy of the pattern at church during regular office hours.

## OFFERING REPORT

From July 1, 2019 to April 24, 2020

Actual ministry income:	\$880,881
Actual cost of ministry:	\$888,509
Mortgage balance:	\$1,397,493





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