

# Worship in the Home

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020



*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.*

## Opening Hymn

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

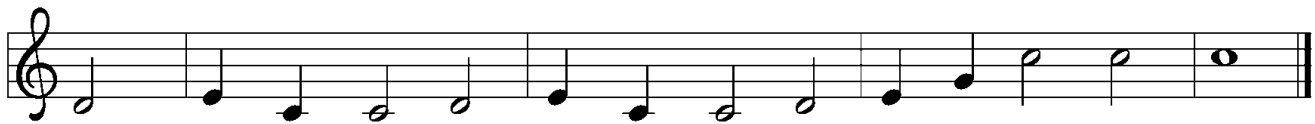
ELW # 778



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall 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

### Gospel: John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <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 the shepherd, and the sheep hear 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 ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run away because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

### Reflection

There are lots of “thieves and robbers” about. That is, there are church leaders who do not present the gospel and there are political leaders who serve only themselves. The Bible calls such leaders “false shepherds.” But in the Bible the Good Shepherd, the one who gathers the flock and does not misuse or kill them, is God. In his death and resurrection, Jesus — who is called the Lamb of God — becomes our Good Shepherd. By his wounds we were healed. In the current valley of death he is with us. In the scriptures, as in the preaching of faithful pastors and the witness of each other, we hear his voice, calling us by name, and turning us again, as well as we can now, toward people in need.

### Prayers of Intercession

Penned up in our homes but united in the one flock of believers, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need:

For the church, O God, we pray: that we will hear and follow your voice calling to us in the word; that bishops and pastors be sustained for their shepherding tasks; that churches devastated by the virus be upheld; that in this time churches find ways to continue their ministries of education and service: O God, faithful shepherd of the church, **restore our life.**

For the earth we pray: that lands and waters be renewed; that animals and plants enjoy safe growth; that rain and soil nurture the fields; that drought and floods in Yemen be averted and locusts of Kenya cease their frenzy: O God, steadfast gardener of the earth, **restore our life.**

For the nations of the world we pray: that heads of state and legislators cooperate for the good of all; that medical experts be heeded; that government moneys serve the nations' greatest needs; that during Ramadan Muslims are granted release from prejudice: O God, fearless peacemaker of the nations, **restore our life.**

For a world so economically divided, we pray: that the millions of those unemployed be given food and shelter now and jobs in the future; that children find a fruitful means of education; that refugees be safeguarded from violence and prejudice; that, inspired by the early Christians, those who have means become ever more generous to those who endure great want: O God, just protector of the poor, **restore our life.**

For all in need we pray: that those afflicted with the coronavirus be cared for; that the sick be healed; that those in despair find hope; that those who are lonely be comforted; that medical workers be safeguarded; that those we name here receive the best possible care: O God, mighty healer of the sick, **restore our life.**

For our own desires we pray: that like the shepherds Rachel and David, each tending their father's flocks, we will be blessed for the fulfilling our tasks; and that you hear the cries of our hearts: O God, tender shepherd of each of us, **restore our life.**

We praise you for those who have died in the faith. We pray that at our end, as sheep of your own fold, as lambs of your own flock, we will be gathered into your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. O God, gateway to life, **restore our life.**

Into your everlasting arms we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your care for us, through Jesus Christ, our guardian and friend, who taught us to pray:

**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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ✠ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Join Us on Zoom for the Closing Hymn and Fellowship:**

**ID 596-621-1441, Password 8675309**

Hymn

You Are Mine

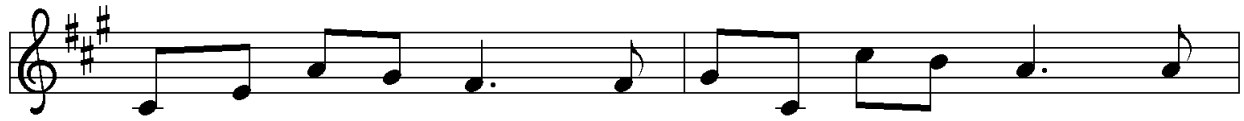
ELW # 581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*  
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*  
 all will know my name. *To refrain*  
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



*Refrain*  
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

## **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** (commemoration of Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387) Psalm 100. **Tuesday** Hebrews 13:20-21. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 23:1-8. **Thursday** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16. **Friday** (commemoration of Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416) Exodus 3:1-12. **Saturday** (commemoration of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760) Jeremiah 26:20-24. **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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## **Worship Schedule**

Monday: Hymn Devotions, 9AM & 9PM (pre-recorded)

Tuesday-Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM

Tuesday-Friday: Kids' Devotions & Otto Sings Camp's Greatest Hits, Midday

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer, 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM

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Tuesday: Camp Sequanota Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (Zoom link on Camp's page)

## **Study Schedule**

Wednesday: 10AM Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday: 3PM & 7PM Book Study on Zoom: *The Quotidian Mysteries* by Kathleen Norris  
(Attend either session as convenient; read through page 42)

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Betty Jane Moore, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** John Aljets, Jerry Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Donna Corle, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, George Gilbert Sr., Shari Gilbert, Crystal Faust-Harbaugh, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jillian, Melissa Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Sandy Loomis, Kristen Malloy, Savannah McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Ray Overdorff, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Michele Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Matt Straesser, Cindy Thomas, Dave Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Todd Yingling, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Those Serving Overseas:** Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

### **THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)**

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson at [DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET](mailto:DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET)

**Deadline** to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020**. Funds will be distributed in June 2020.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

#### **USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given by using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages- scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects- major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.