



Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Gathering

Kyrie

Leader **In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.**

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader **For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.**

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader **For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word let us pray to the Lord.**

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader **Help, save, and defend us, O God.**

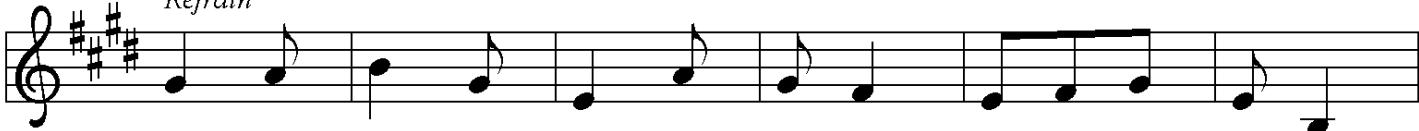
Assembly




A - men.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



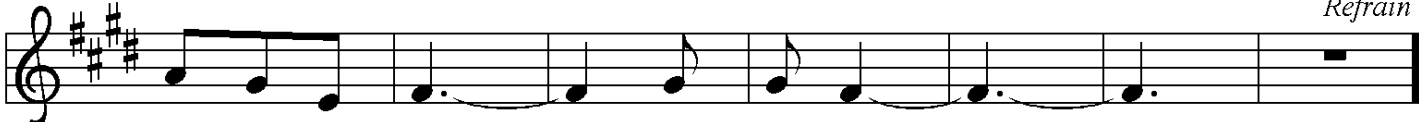
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Continued....



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

Amen.

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our helper,

We confess the many ways

We have failed to live as your disciples.

We have not finished what we began.

We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.

We have been captivated by our possessions.

Lift our burdens, gracious God.

Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.

Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going

astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Choral Anthem....."Psalm 23 (A Psalm of Hope)"

OneLicense #282881

Contributors: Heather Sorenson, based on Psalm 23, Heather Sorenson

Tune: Copyright © 2017 by HAL LEONARD LLC Text: Copyright © 2017 by HAL LEONARD LLC

Gospel: John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

"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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn..... "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I 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

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way (*especially Bill, Mary Ann, Don, Bob, Barbara, Briden, Christi, Sue, Michael, Jenna, Joe, Dave, Joy, Frank, Vicki, Steve, Tyler, Norm, Penny, Michael, Ron, Sandy, Ken, Michael, Pete, Hadlee, Maryann, Shirley, Trisha, Bonnie, Henry, Del, Ruth, Sarah, Gloria, Michael, Sara, Sumi, Celine, Michael, Darcie, Peter and People of Syria, Turkey and Ukraine*). Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever (*especially Larry and Carl*). Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

Offertory..... "Spirit Song"

O let the Son of God en - fold you with His Spir - it and His
O come and sing the song of glad - ness as your hearts are filled with

4
love, Let Him fill your life and sat - is - fy — your soul. O let Him
joy, Lift your hands in sweet sur - ren - der to — His name. O give Him

9
have the things that hold you and His Spir - it, like a dove, Will de -
all your tears and sad - ness, give Him all your years of pain, And you'll

13
scend up - on your life and make you whole. Je -
en - ter in - to life in Je - sus' name.

18
sus, O Je - sus, come and fill Your lambs. —

24
Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and fill Your

31
Repeat Ending | Song Ending
lambs. lambs. —

© 1979 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Vineyard Music USA) CCLI License # 1419869

Offering Prayer

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Distribution

We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.

Special Music..... "Shepherd Me, O Gentle Lamb" (Choir)

OneLicense #205255

Contributors: Joseph M Martin, Joseph M Martin

Tune: Copyright © 2007 by Malcolm Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Text: Copyright © 2007 by Malcolm Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

Sending Song..... "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text and music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.