

Welcome
to the
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd!

We welcome you to this celebration of God's Good News!
We are happy to have you with us and pray this worship service brings to you
the joy and peace of Christ.

Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here.

May God's blessing and peace be with you.

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, *Bishop of Missouri*
The Rev. C. Earl Mahan, *Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Stuerke, *Assisting Priest*
Bobbi Reese, *Organist and Choir Director*



Liturgical Participants for April 25, 2021

Rev. C. Earl Mahan, *Preacher and Presider*
Mickey Harrison, *Lector*
Bobbi Reese, Bernard Barth, Connor Donnelly, Jennifer Holtmann,
Joanne Owen, Mary Scott, Vicki Thompson, *Musicians*
Brenda Finch, *Usher*
Vicki Thompson, Mike Burd, *Counters*
Carol Link, Brenda Finch, *Altar Guild*
Barry Schenck, Mark Dinzler, *Videography*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Announcements

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Presider: 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.**

GLORIA

Sung by the choir

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

THE OPENING COLLECT

Presider: 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 WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas 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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People,
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 *(read by all)*

The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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 LESSON: 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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Sung by the choir

THE GOSPEL: John 10:11-1

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. C. Earl Mahan

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

People: 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 truly 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider: “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised.” In the light of resurrection’s power we are given new birth in Christ Jesus. Having been made new let us offer our prayers to the Holy One.

Leader: You who in dawn’s first light summoned creation anew through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; summon us afresh to be sentinels of light, hope and resurrection that in a world gripped by death, despair and desolation we may be beacons of life, joy and love. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope and love. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free us from enslavement to division, disunity and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos. Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost and the least; shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering especially those we name [_____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare and strife. Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we now name [_____]. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader: You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth our island home. Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse and neglect our fellow creatures. Christ be our light.

People: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Presider: May Christ, the Morning-Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth and the wellspring of hope; that following the way of Jesus and filled with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be a holy people whose lives and living inspire, incite and inflame your world with compassion and care. Through Jesus the Christ the light of the world. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another with the Peace of God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Sung by the choir

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Presider: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

All: **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.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

AGNUS DEI

sung by the choir

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

Grant us your peace

THE INVITATION

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Music during Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
and love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you and to the Holy Spirit
be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Presider: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Sung by the choir

THE DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ! Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude