

2020 05 03 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: Jesus came that we may have life,

C: And have it abundantly. Alleluia!

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve Your eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, 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. Peace be with you!

C: Amen.

PSALM 23

P: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads 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.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we follow our Good Shepherd.

C: 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. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our Gospel reading for today comes from the Gospel according to **John 10:1-10**.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

(Luther’s Small Catechism)

SERMON based on John 10:1-10.

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon **“Run from the robbers!”**

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Bidden by our Shepherd, let us come before His throne of grace in prayer on behalf of all people according to their needs.

Blessed Shepherd, You established Your Church with Your sacrificial death and mighty resurrection. Grant us devotion, that we may abide in the teaching of the apostles and honor the fellowship of the Church. Guard us against all enemies of Your Word, and keep us within the care of Your flock and staff forevermore.

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

Mighty Shepherd, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your people. Grant to us good government and good leaders who will honour Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty against all threats. Give them wisdom and moderation in their pandemic response.

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

Loving Shepherd, You loved the world enough to shed Your blood, and You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Inspire and equip Your Church and her ministers to speak faithfully and boldly Your Word, and bless all those who serve us on Your behalf. Bless us when we are persecuted for the faith or suffer for the sake of the good that honours You and is obedient to Your Word.

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

Holy Shepherd, You have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, right and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and in service to the Gospel and that the arts may testify to Your saving death and resurrection.

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

Caring Shepherd, we pray for our congregations, Grace and Bethlehem, for our efforts to care for one another while we live through this strange season, help us to reach out

and to connect, bless our work on our interviews and “Grace” new directory. Bless our Support Network and grant our coordinators joy and satisfaction as they carry out their responsibilities, help us all to speak the life-giving words of Christ, to bring comfort and encouragement to all, and especially to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice calls us to You in time of need. Hear us on behalf of all those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve those whom they love, and to whom death draws near. We pray especially for pastor Trevor Reu, be with him and lead him as you have promised, be with his wife Gina and grant her your peace and comfort. Hear us on behalf of all those whom we now silently name in our hearts... .. Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in the day of trouble, and hope of the new and everlasting life to come.

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

Gracious Shepherd, You seek out those who have fallen and restore the sinner to repentance. Send forth Your Spirit to rekindle faith in the hearts of those who have been led astray, who have fallen away from the truth or who have been overcome by temptation and sin. Bring good from ill and increase in all the hunger for Your Word and a recognition of our need, that many may be gathered into Your flock when church doors are opened wide again.

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

Giving Shepherd, You have not withheld anything from us but emptied Yourself fully upon the cross that we might be saved. Move our hearts to such devotion and teach us such generosity, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and serve our neighbor in need with the resources You have supplied to us so abundantly.

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

O great Good Shepherd, we pray You to hear Your sheep and answer our prayers with mercy, granting us those things profitable for us and our salvation and keeping from us all things harmful; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

C: 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.

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.