Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: What a joy it is to welcome you this day!
Congregation: We are grateful and happy to be here.
Leader: Christ, the Good Shepherd, invites you to walk with him.
Congregation: We accept that invitation, confident in his guidance.
Leader: Be ready to serve the Lord in all that you do, for his love has been poured upon you.
Congregation: Open our hearts and spirits this day, Lord, to receive your holy words and to be challenged in our service to you.
All: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER
All: Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people.
In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray.
Amen.

HYMN
Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All: We grumble and complain about our daily lot in life. We read the newspapers, watch the broadcast news and moan about the evil which flourishes in the world. And we wonder, "Where are you, O God?" We turn our backs on the needs of the poor or give only a cursory acknowledgment of their plight. We throw our hands up in the air and act as though we are defeated. And we cry, "Why isn’t God taking care of all this?" Forgive us, patient Lord. Forgive our arrogance, our ignorance, our pettiness. Forgive us when we could have done something to help someone else, but chose instead to turn away. Forgive us when we, by our attitudes and language, our thoughts and actions, have gone against your will. You are with us,
Lord. You lead us daily in right paths and offer to us the bread of life. You stand with us in times of trial and in the presence of those whom we fear, giving us your abundant love. And then you offer to us a place in your eternal home. How can we doubt your presence? Help us to trust you. Help us to praise you and remember that you have called us to be your witnesses and workers in this world. Give us strength and courage, joy and peace for all the work that you have for us to do. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for us, his sheep, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Leader: In the midst of all that you fear, God is with you. God will not abandon you. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for you and offers you hope and peace.

All: Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE
Halle, Halle, Halle

SERMON About Psalm 23 Ms. Cathy Rentzel

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER
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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION
Leader: With God as our Shepherd, we will not be in need. Our cups already overflow with God’s blessing. Let share in the care of all God’s children. Let us love, not simply in word or speech, but also in truth and action, as we give from our hands and hearts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
All: Loving Shepherd, you have laid down life itself to show your love for all people. May our gifts of time, talent and treasure bring comfort to those who walk through dark valleys and bring wholeness and peace to those not of this fold. As we have gathered our gifts, gather us also as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought Last Page of Bulletin

BENEDICTION
Leader: The Good Shepherd leads us forward, from this place, into the world to serve God’s people, to witness to God’s love in all that we do. Go in peace and God’s peace will go with you.

FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12
SECOND READING 1 John 3:16-24
THIRD READING Psalm 23
FOURTH READING John 10:11-18