

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.
Death no longer has dominion over Him.
I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep,
and am known by My own.

Rom 6:9; Jn 10:14

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 17, 2016

A Service of the Word and Sacrament

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

VISITORS: It is a blessing to have you join us for worship today! We want you to be aware that because God's Word urges us to be instructed and agreed in faith before taking the Lord's Supper together, we kindly ask those who are not in fellowship with the CLC first meet with the pastor before coming to communion. We want to share in this blessing with you and to do so on the basis of a united understanding of Christ and His teachings. If you'd like more information, the pastor would be happy to meet with you. You can read more about our practice of "close communion" in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entry way. Thank you for your understanding.

1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:18-29

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 23, forepart of TLH p.128

OPENING HYMN

WS 727 (tan hymnal)

Our Paschal Lamb, that Sets Us Free

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congreg. (C) Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

M Let us then draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment, for we have not loved You above all things and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

M Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all our sins. Therefore, as a called

servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

INTROIT

Rom 6:9; Jn 10:14

M Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.

C Death no longer has dominion over Him.

M I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep,

C and am known by My own.

M Lord have mercy upon us.

C Christ have mercy upon us.

M Lord have mercy upon us.

C Amen.

GLORIA CHRISTI ~ Glory to Christ

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
this alone can sin destroy!
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray, ... one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen.”

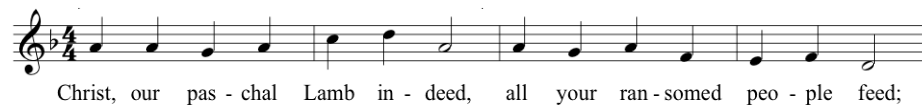
¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**C The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
 He leads me beside the still waters.
 He restores my soul;
 He leads me in the paths of righteousness
 For His name's sake.
 Yea, 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 runs over.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days of my life;
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 Forever.**

♪ Sing (w intro, TLH 190:7)



GOSPEL LESSON

M And this is eternal life, that we know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. *John 17:3*

C Glory to You, O Lord!

John 10:22–30

²² Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. ²³ And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and *My* Father are one."

M These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, we may have life in His name. *John 20:31*

C Praise to You, O Christ!

CREED ~ The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation,
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the Prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

WS 783 (tan hymnal)

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

SERMON

Acts 20:17-35

¹⁷ From Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: ... ²⁷ I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

A Shepherding Church

1. A flock fed by the Word
2. A flock led by Spirit chosen shepherds
3. A flock bled upon by God

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

HYMN

TLH 264:1,3,6 (red hymnal)

Preserve Thy Word, O Saviour

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O Great Lord and Shepherd of the Church, we ask your blessing and help upon the flock of God, for our own needs, and for the needs of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you have bought us with your own blood. So preserve and protect your flock from every evil. Raise up faithful shepherds who will not shy away from declaring to us the whole counsel of God. Send Your Holy Spirit to defend Your Church with right preaching. Keep all false doctrine and all false teachers from our midst. Preserve us in the love of the gospel that we would always trust and follow Your caring voice. Keep us eternally in your gracious hand that the devil may never snatch us away from you. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, through the Holy Spirit's work in the church you appointed Elders to lead and govern the church at Ephesus. We ask the same guidance of the Holy Spirit to be granted to this Pastor. As he considers the call you've extended through the congregation in West Columbia and the current call you have given him to serve the congregation at Ascension, bless him with humility and wisdom. Use the counsel of his brothers and sisters in the CLC to provide clarity as to where his efforts would best serve the needs of your kingdom. Hear the prayers of both congregations and work all things according to your will so that, through this struggle, we would be strengthened and built up in you. Shepherd us by your love, O Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you have walked through this world and have seen and felt her valleys of suffering and death. Visit, we pray, those who suffer the darkness of sickness, depression and death. By your mercy, grant relief to them and restore them to the light of your salvation. Help those who are weak, and raise up those who are fallen. Bless the world with good government and faithful leadership. Preserve justice and mercy so that the guilty would be fairly punished and the innocent would be protected from harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



A Service of the Sacrament



M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. We beg You, O Lord, gather us together with all the faithful from the ends of the earth and let Your kingdom come among us in the name and the remembrance of Jesus. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood. Graciously receive our prayers that we might be forgiven, renewed, strengthened, and delivered from all evil. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matt. 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, 1 Cor. 11

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

M As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

M Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and pray together with us,

C 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!

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

"This is the Feast of Victory," based on Revelation 5



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular; Richard Hillert, b.1923, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert



DISTRIBUTION



M Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

M Let us pray together,

O Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for Your resurrection, for through it You have given us new birth into a living hope. Grant that, having heard Your Word and received Your body and blood, we would grow in knowing You and the power of Your resurrection. Make us to walk in Your Spirit, that everything we know, everything we say, and everything we do, may be conformed to the image of Your endless life. Hear us, for You live to intercede before the Father, who, together with the Holy Spirit, are one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 648 (red hymnal)

I am Jesus Little Lamb

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. We pray that you have been comforted by the Gospel, that you have grown in the Word, and that you have been encouraged through the Holy Spirit to glorify God by your good works. God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). For more information about our church visit our website at AscensionBatavia.org. Feel free to sign our guest registry in the entry way. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music Asst.: C. Hubbard Lead Usher:
Minister: Pastor D. Pfeiffer Comm. Asst.: D. Eserhut