



SUNDAY, APRIL 25,
2021

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"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" JOHN 10:14-15

Be still and know that I am God by John Bell

***Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am God.***

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
In your resurrection, O Christ, let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Alleluia! Glory to God CP 457 (vs 1-4)

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Glory to God who does wondrous things;
let all the people God's praises now sing;
all of creation in splendour shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***See how salvation for all has been won;
up from the grave our new life has begun;
life now perfected in Jesus, the Son:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*Now in our presence the Lord will appear,
 shine in the faces of all of us here;
 fill us with joy and cast out all our fear:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Call us, good Shepherd; we listen for you,
 wanting to see you in all that we do;
 we would the gate of salvation pass through:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Blessed are you, God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory forever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt and led them to freedom in the promised land, so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the loving reign of the risen Christ.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation, rejoice in this new day you have made and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures

and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for your 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Acts 4:5-12

The next day their 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.

'Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Death is swallowed up in victory. **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised. **Where, O death, is your sting?**

We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

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.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is CP 520 (vs 1-4, 6)

***The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine for ever.***

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever!*

John 10:11-18

'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.

'Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Sermon

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, **the Creator of Israel, your Sovereign.**'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, **a path in the mighty waters,**

'Remember not the former things, **nor consider the things of old.**

Behold, I am doing a new thing; **now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, **to give drink to my chosen people,**
the people whom I formed for myself, **that they might declare my praise.'**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Please join me in reciting 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 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 again 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.

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service CP 585

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone but heart;
consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

Stewardship Moment

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying, 'Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.'

May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May all people receive the good news of Christ's victory.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ's resurrection.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the people of God that they might proclaim the risen Lord;*
- *God's creation that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care;*
- *those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ;*

- *those in fear of death that they may find faith through the resurrection and*
- *prisoners and captives.*

Let us pray: Lord of the sheepfold, whose love is not for hire: we thank you that Christ laid down his life for us when we could not help ourselves. Give us strength to work for peace in the world he came to serve; through the same Jesus Christ, the good shepherd. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Love Is the Touch (More Voices)

***Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.** May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**

Readings for next Sunday – May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8