



As We Gather The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one's self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center

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Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.

A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily.
(1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- *Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- *Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- *Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

Please Note

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church can come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

PRELUDE Canon – Pachelbel , Pastorale – anonymous (circa. 1700)

WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #700 “ Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES 1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** By this we know love,
- C** **that He laid down His life for us.**
- P** “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.
- C** **The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**
- P** Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.
- C** **And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 23; John 10:11

- P** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
- C** **Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.
- C** **Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**
- P** 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.
- C** **We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

P 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 **As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.**

P Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ’s laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained 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.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

P I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

C **and I lay down my life for the sheep**

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul.

C **He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

C **I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies.

C **you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C **and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

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

P I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

C **and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

KYRIE

- P** O Lord,
C have mercy on us.
P O Christ,
C have mercy on us.
P O Lord,
C have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST LSB 155

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,
C grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads;
P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE Romans 6:9; John 10:14

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

C **I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY #709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

SERMON “We Know Love” 1 John 3:16-24

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
You are the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**
- P** [*petitions...*] let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, for You sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Good Shepherd. We know His love as He laid down His life for us and set us free from sin and death. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD “Remember Me” G. Gustafson & M. Nystrom

P (sung) “On the night ... This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me.”

C (sung) “**So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed Your blood
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed your blood.**”

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LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

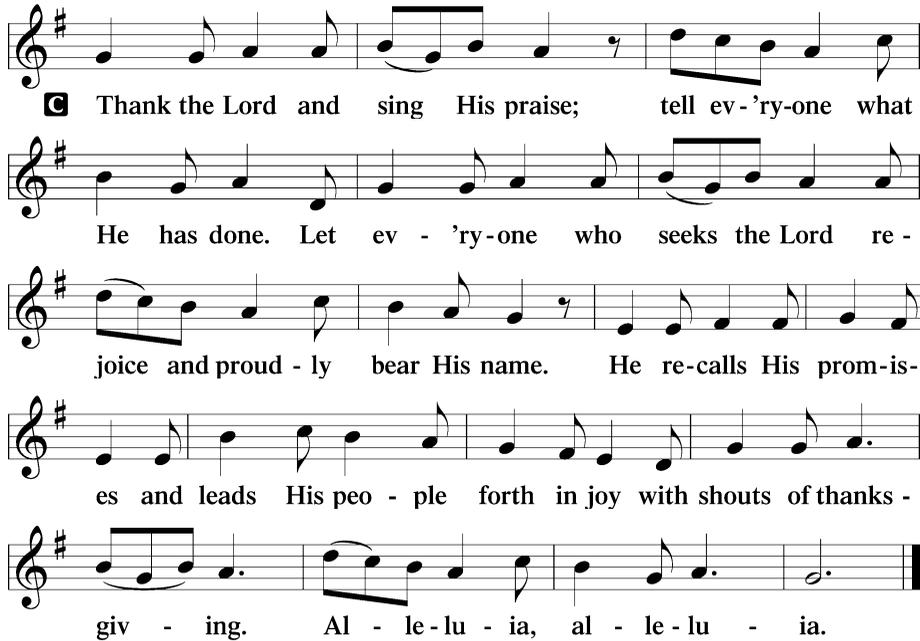
AGNUS DEI LSB 180

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“In You Alone” – Kim Hill, “Beneath the Cross” – Getty Soloist: Christine Constien
#744 Amazing Grace

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Thank the Lord LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, that You have fed us with Your own body and blood, which You freely gave up for us by Your perfect love for Your flock. We pray that by this gift our faith be strengthened and we be enabled to live for Your glory as we faithfully follow where You lead. Grant that others be brought into Your flock as Your Spirit works within us, who with You and the Father are one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P By this we know love,

C that He laid down His life for us.

P "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.

C The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **C** Amen.

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 favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #711 “ Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Altar Flowers today are given by Mary Webster in thankfulness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

PRAYER LIST: Family of Rev. August (Augie) Ristow, sudden death April 15; Anita Burkhalter, healing; Betty Zierke, healing; Pam Bean, rehab.; Bill Dalton, rehab.; Harold Holtz, cancer treatments; Marcy West (Daughter-in-Law of DeAnn & Phillip West), cancer treatments; John Jamieson, cancer treatments; Mary Webster, cancer remission; Deedee Halterman, lung cancer, sister-in-law of Maggie Halterman; Lyle Powelson, cancer; Tom Stettler, Southern Utah Veterans Home; the homebound.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	April 26	10:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study
		11:30 a.m.	Small Group Communion
Wednesday	April 28	9:00 a.m.	God Connects – Lutheran Faith Basics Class
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		1-4 p.m.	Ceramics
Sunday	May 2	1:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for George Halterman

GOLF UP-DATE

Total went from \$44,353 to \$47,122

BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 27 Ron Struhar

Apr. 29 Lois Beadles

8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. service available online at our Facebook page (live and recorded - @MesquiteLCC). You do not need a Facebook account to view. Go to facebook.com/MesquiteLCC/live

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR. If anyone would like to put real flowers on the altar for any occasion, please feel free to do so and call Lois Beadles at 702-346-6177 to see if the date is open.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

More people are needed to help **clean the church** each week. Bob Sennett coordinates this. Please call him at 801-414-8324 for more information.

Acknowledgments

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