

Mesquite Lutheran Church & Preschool/Childcare Center

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AS WE GATHER The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

The closing prayer of the funeral service begins with these words: “Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home.” Describing Jesus as a Shepherd is a special image used in prayers, hymns, and Christian artwork. The believer receives a sense of assurance in knowing that the One being followed throughout life is Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The fact that our Lord chooses to repeat the words “I am the Good Shepherd” more than once indicates its importance to Him and to us. As we follow Jesus, we can be confident that He will lead us into that place where goodness and righteousness are eternal.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 710 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

- 1 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E’en for His own name’s sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 95:1, 7

P Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

C let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P For He is our God,

C and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Micah 6:6–8

P Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

C With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

- P Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
- C Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**
- P He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
- C Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may follow where He leads until that time when we, by His grace, come to dwell in Your house forever.**
- P God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. 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.
- C Amen.**

WORD

KYRIE “Have Mercy on Your People, Lord”

Have mer - cy on Your peo - ple, Lord.

Have mer - cy, Christ, our King.

Re - new us by Your mer - cy, Lord;

Ac - cept the prayers we bring.

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HYMN OF PRAISE “The Lord Alive”

1 The Lord a - live says, “Go,” To meet Him as He
2 The Lord a - live says, “See My hands, My side, My
3 Our Lord says, “Now be - lieve The words of proph - e -
4 “Come fol - low,” says the Lord, “As sheep with - in My

said; As Je - sus, past all
face. The peace I leave with
cy. With faith a - live you
care. Be fed and nour - ished

doubts, does show He’s ris - en from the dead.
you shall be Here and in ev - ’ry place.”
shall re - ceive E - ter - nal life in Me.”
by My Word; My love a - live to share.”

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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, 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; 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 2:42–47

“⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 2:19–25

“¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

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

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

GOSPEL READING John 10: 1-10

¹[Jesus said:] “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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The 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 to You, O Christ**

HYMN OF THE DAY 708 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 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.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

SERMON “Mindful of God” 1 Peter 2:19-25

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.

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Inspire us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Amen.**

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.

BENEDICTION

- 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

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
- 4 Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

Acknowledgments

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PRAYER LIST: Turk Chaney, healing; Melissa Harris, daughter of Den & Sophie Hood, cancer treatment; Marilyn Goble, cancer treatment; Kalyse, niece of Gayle & Les Miller, cancer; Harold Holtz, cancer treatments; Randy Saltzman, cancer; Bernard Dill, cancer, friend of Fritz & Barbara Reed. Tom Stettler, Southern Utah Veterans Home; the homebound.

GOLFERS! PLEASE REGISTER NOW through May 5th! The GOLF TOURNAMENT has been rescheduled for May 9th.

MLC AT HOME Worship continues on YouTube and email May 10th. Pray that the pandemic may be contained enough to allow us once again to gather for worship and receive the Lord's Supper in His house on May 17th!

RUMMAGE SALE is rescheduled to May 16th.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER: Our cash position remains stable. Thanks to everyone for your timely contributions. God bless, Den Hood.

Your continued prayers and support for Mesquite Lutheran Church and Childcare Center are greatly appreciated! Thanks be to God for His generous Spirit!