

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2020

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair

Vicar
Organist

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #543 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C - sung**)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**In Unison**)

P Let us pray...

**C O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through
the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and
security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior**

and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: Here ends the reading.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23 (*responsively*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

SECOND READING.....1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: Here ends the reading.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

* GOSPEL..... John 10:1-10
P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

[Jesus said:] ¹Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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 The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Vicar Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" #481 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

**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 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.**

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

“He Leadeth Me”

#501 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE:

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB154530