



The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2020

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PREPARATION

### INVOCATION

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

**Congregation**      **Amen.**

### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation**      **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation**      **therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation**      **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation      Amen.**

***Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds***

**1. Now all the vault of heaven resounds**

**In praise of love that still abounds:**

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

**Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!**

**Repeat their song of glory here:**

**“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2. Eternal is the gift he brings,**

**Therefore our heart with rapture sings:**

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

**Now still he comes to give us life**

**And by his presence stills all strife.**

**Christ has triumphed! He is living!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4. Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heavenly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS***

**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And with your spirit.**

Pastor: 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.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## READINGS

### *First Reading Acts 2:42 - 47*

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

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**



## ***Epistle 1 Peter 2:19 – 25***

<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.<sup>20</sup> For 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.<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.<sup>23</sup> When 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.<sup>24</sup> He 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.<sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

*After the reading:*

Lector      This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation    Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**  
**These things are written that you may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor            The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 10, verses 1-10

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

<sup>1</sup> [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.<sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.<sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.<sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."<sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.<sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

*After the reading:*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

## **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.**

## Hymn of the Day

## 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**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**



Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

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

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*On What Has Now Been Sown*

- 1. On what has now been sown Thy blessing Lord, bestow;  
The power is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise.**
- 2. To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our powers;  
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive And to Thy Word a blessing give**
- 3. Oh, grant that each of us Now met before Thee here  
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heaven, our home. E'en so, Amen, Lord Jesus come! Amen.**