
✠ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • APRIL 30, 2023 • 9:00 AM

T *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

T OPENING HYMN

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,
REJOICE AND SING
LBW #144

T INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

T CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

a brief silence for meditation and confession

God of life,

All: **by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.**

We are frightened, God, and confess to closing our ears to your voice.

We have not listened to voices that challenge us.

We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions.

Our hearts are slow to hear you and believe your promises.

Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WL: People of God, hear the good news!

Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, loves us forgives us.

He calls us by name when we stray and he searches for us.

When he finds us, in joy he lovingly carries us home.

In the + name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven!

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

All: **Amen!**

T HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast
pg. 60-61

T PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray: 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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 2:42-47

R: Our first lesson on this Fourth Sunday of Easter is from the book of Acts, the second chapter.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 PETER 2:19-25

R: The Epistle lesson is from the first letter of St. Peter, the second chapter.

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

T ALLELUIA VERSE

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

T HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 10:1-10

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

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

TODAY'S MESSAGE

T MESSAGE HYMN

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

LBW 456

T PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: If we declare with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. Let us confess our Christian faith together as the people of God:

All: **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 OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Giving envelopes are available in the back of each pew.

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

T PREFACE & SANCTUS

pg. 69

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

WL: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: *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.

T THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

T THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All: **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.**

T PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

Repeat each phrase the cantor sings

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LEAD ME, LORD, I WILL FOLLOW

CANTOR AND ASSEMBLY

Lead me, Lord. I will follow.

Lead me, Lord. I will go.

You have called me. I will answer.

Lead me, Lord. I will go.

T THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: Amen.

T CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

T BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: Amen.

T SENDING HYMN

ON OUR WAY REJOICING

LBW 260

T SENDING

WL: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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BE NOT AFRAID

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

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LEAD ME, LORD

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