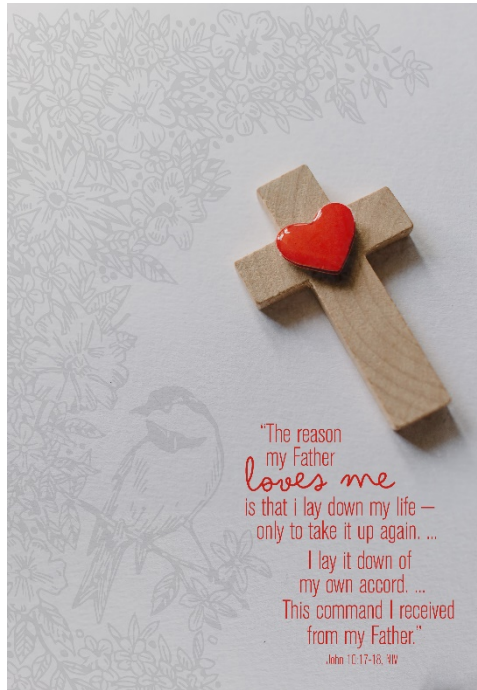


# **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 21, 2024**



**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
10891 102 Avenue, Seminole, FL 33778  
727.391.4644

[www.mygoodshepherd.net](http://www.mygoodshepherd.net)

## INTRODUCTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Please stand*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**



## GREETING

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



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'  
<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, - that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according John. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus said: <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

*Please stand*

## The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore 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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Gentle Shepherd*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

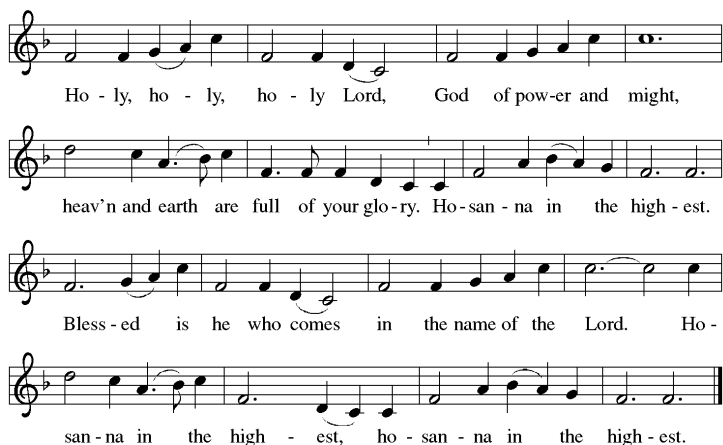
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please sit*

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will come after to receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAMILY TIME

### BLESSING

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

### SENDING HYMN

## God Be with You Till We Meet Again



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

### *Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

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*"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"*

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

*"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"*

**Bible Study on Attention (online)  
Wednesdays at noon starting April 10th**

attention

Pastor Keith will be starting the next online bible study on the topic of "Attention." What demands our attention? Where do we notice God? We will look to biblical wisdom as well as the contribution of artists

to lead us. We'll meet at a new time as well: **Wednesdays at noon, starting April 10th.** [Join Zoom on your lunch break!](#)

**The Chosen, Season 4  
Tuesday at 6:00pm, April 23rd**

Have you heard of *The Chosen*? It's a well-produced series that follows the story of Jesus and his disciples. The first three seasons [are free online](#), but the current fourth season is only available for church screenings. Good Shepherd will host a viewing on **Tuesday April 23rd. We'll start at 6:00pm, to watch episodes 3 & 4 together.** There will be an opportunity after each episode to discuss, as well.



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

**Abigail Circle** has a Bible Study the fourth Monday of the month via Zoom at 7:00 pm. call Carol Crouse (703-200-1965) if you are interested in joining our monthly Bible Study via zoom.

**Naomi Circle** meets at 11am on the 4th Monday of the month in the library. Please call Marilou Nemeth (727-546-9580 or text her at 727-242-1304), or e-mail Marilou at [bill.mariloun@gmail.com](mailto:bill.mariloun@gmail.com) for additional information.

## Justice Ministry

At Good Shepherd, we regularly **show mercy** by providing help to those in need. We **walk humbly with God** weekly in worship. But to **do justice**, we have to step outside the walls of the church. Good Shepherd's Justice Ministry will join two thousand other people of faith on **April 30th at 7pm at First Baptist Church of St. Pete** to show our elected officials that we want our county to be an affordable, safe, and beautiful place to live. When you show up, it makes a difference. Let Pastor Keith or Greg Stout know if you need a ride. Good Shepherd shows up 52 weeks a year for faithfulness; let's show up once for justice!



### Our Stewardship For the month ending March 31 2024

	Church	Little Lambs
Needed monthly	\$ 28,324.92	\$ 54,174.25
Giving/Income for the month	13,728.63	61,042.02
Monthly Expenses	\$ 23,144.92	\$ 62,355.52
Giving/Income YTD	42,351.04	222,540.94
Expenses YTD	71,848.90	193,402.72
Estimated Cost for Roof and Renovations		\$ 150,000.00
Total Paid Out for Roof and Renovations so far		\$ 123,494.00
Contributions towards Roof and Renovations		\$ 24,155.35

