+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

May 11 2025

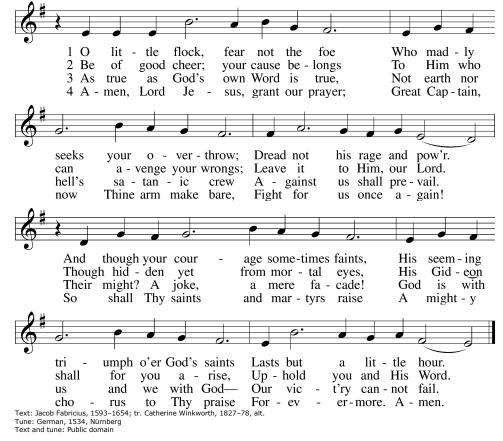
Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

Fourth Sunday of Easter

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

 \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 78:70-72; 79:13; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

P I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

C He chose David his servant and took him from the | sheepfolds;*

from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his in- | heritance.*

- With upright heart he shep- | herded them* and guided them with his | skillful hand.
- **C** But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you for- | ever;* from generation to generation we will re- | count your praise.
- **C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- ginning,*

- is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- I am the good | shepherd.*I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie

- **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.
- ▶ 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.

This Is the Feast Al-le - lu A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. _ ia. 0 0. Wor - thy С is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, 6 whose blood free of God. set to be peo-ple us Pow - er and rich - es and wis dom and strength and and bless-ing His. hon or and glo - ry are Ø. This is the feast Al - le of vic-to-ry for our God. 0 lu Sing ia. with all the peo - ple of 0 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon or and glo ry and might be to -God and the Lamb for A men. ev er. 0. . This of God, the feast for our is vic - to-ry 0 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign. Al le lu - ia, al - le lu ia. --

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **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

Revelation 7:9–17

R The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 20.

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

R The Epistle is from Revelation, chapter 7.

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God,

and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them,

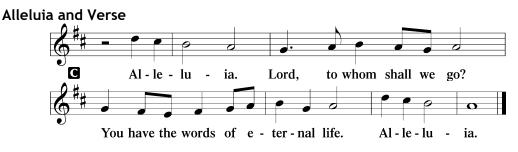
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- **R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



John 10:22-30

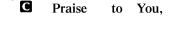
Holy Gospel

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



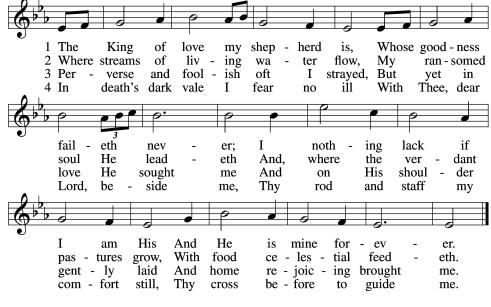
P ²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."





Sit

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



Christ.

0

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth! Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

6

Sermon

Stand

Nicene

Cre	eed
С	I believe in one God,
	the Father Almighty,
	maker of heaven and earth
	and of all things visible and invisible.
	And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
	the only-begotten Son of God,
	begotten of His Father before all worlds,
	God of God, Light of Light,
	very God of very God,
	begotten, not made,
	being of one substance with the Father,
	by whom all things were made;
	who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
	and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
	and was made man;
	and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
	He suffered and was buried.
	And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
	and ascended into heaven
	and sits at the right hand of the Father.
	And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
	whose kingdom will have no end.
	And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
	the Lord and giver of life,
	who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
	who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
	who spoke by the prophets.
	And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
	I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
	and I look for the resurrection of the dead
	and the life $+$ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

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

Heavenly Father, in Your name Your Son purchased us with His own most holy blood, and He now leads us through the gate of death to our eternal home with You. As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly and to follow Him steadfastly through every tribulation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

▶ Lord God, Shepherd of souls, Your apostle Paul promised that fierce opposition and twisted speech would come against Your Church, even from within her own fold. Raise up faithful men to pastor Your flock through these threats, and grant that they would not shrink from proclaiming the kingdom of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

▶ Father in heaven, You have given us a mirror of Your love in the vocation of mothers who nurture, guide and raise their children in all things good. Bless them in their calling. Sustain them through weary and difficult times. Remember in compassion all who are barren, and bring them comfort through the children of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

▶ O God, our King, You are Lord of all peoples, nations and tribes. Grant wisdom and truth to those who rule this land, that they may faithfully promote good and punish evil. Wherever our courts or laws are contrary to Your will, reform them for Your mercy's sake. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, You have not forgotten us in our afflictions or abandoned us in our weakness. Deliver the sick and suffering according to Your will, and give comfort to the dying, especially to those who have requested our prayers [*including*]. Guard us against despair, and grant us patience in the days of our trouble as we await Your perfect healing. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

▶ Lord of all the living, You shepherd Your saints through the gate of death, out of all tribulation, to the very throne room of heaven. Bless those who grieve [for _____], and give them eyes of faith to see the deaths they mourn in light of the resurrection of Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son's testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

▶ Lord, enthroned in heaven, You gather Your saints into the shelter of Your presence, making them white in the blood of the Lamb. Keep us faithful throughout our lives here, and bring us through death to join them in the ceaseless praises of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

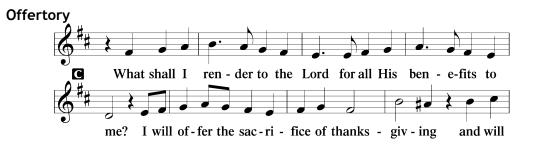
- P O Lord, You promised to raise up a shepherd to deliver Your sheep from all their enemies. We give You thanks for giving us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd. Grant us to hear His voice, know Him by faith and follow where He leads, that He may deliver us into Your arms forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

949 Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship



2##	
0 #	call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
€ [™]	
۵ µ	va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
6##	
J	vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
6 ##	
	courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study. see Matthew 5:23f.: 10:32f.: 18:15–35: 26:26–29: and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

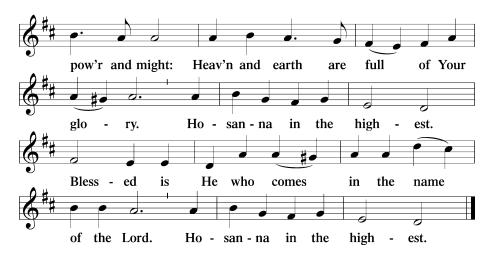
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- ▶ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



LSB 177



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

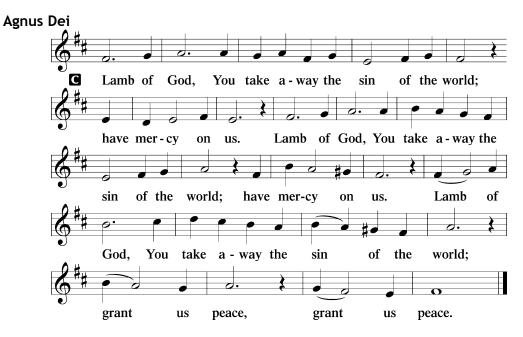
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LSB 179

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

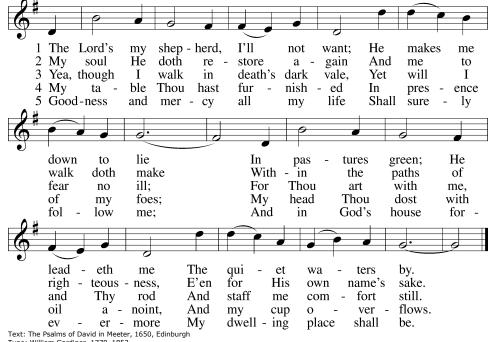
C Amen.



Sit

Distribution



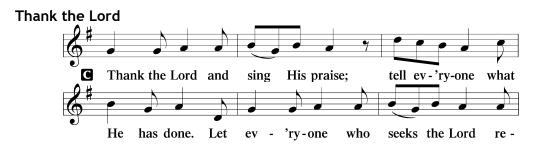


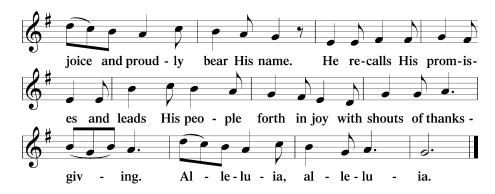
Tune: William Gardiner, 1770–1853 Text and tune: Public domain

676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

1 Be - hold host, ar - rayed white, Like а in thou - sand 2 De - spised and scorned, they so journed here; But now, how _ 3 O bless - ed in bright Now safe - ly saints ar _ ray 7 moun - tains bright! With Who snow - clad they stand; palms glo Those -rious they ap - pear! mar tyrs stand, Α end home in less day, Ex _ tol the Lord, Who Be - fore light? These are is this band the throne of the priest - ly band, God's throne for-ev On er near. earth they with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and 6 saints of glo rious fame. Who from the great af wept through bit ter years; Now God has wiped a -_ path toiled nar - row you trod; You and sowed the 0 0 Of sus' blood flic - tion came And in the flood Je Trans-formed their strife heav'n - ly way their tears, То life, Word a - broad; Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing 0 Are cleansed from guilt and shame. They now serve God both They now en - joy the The myr - iad an - gels them from And freed their fears. Be fore the throne of God. and night; They sing their songs in end - less light. day Their Sab bath rest, The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest; The their song; O raise saints, sing with that hap - py throng! Lift an - thems ring As they all sing With an - gels shin - ing bright. Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board Him - self up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice In our is host and guest. Re-deem-er's song! Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand





Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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.

670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones





Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at 9am on Sunday mornings studying Deuteronomy.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory by Becky Rosson in honor of all mothers.

The Ladies Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 10am studying Nehemiah.

Church Council next meeting is May 18 at 8am.

The next Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Sat. June 14 at 9am.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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