

# **REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4955 W. 158<sup>TH</sup> Street Oak Forest, IL 60452**

**708-687-2432**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**April 25, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.**

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by

**McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME**

**15618 Cicero Avenue Oak Forest, Illinois (708) 687-2990**

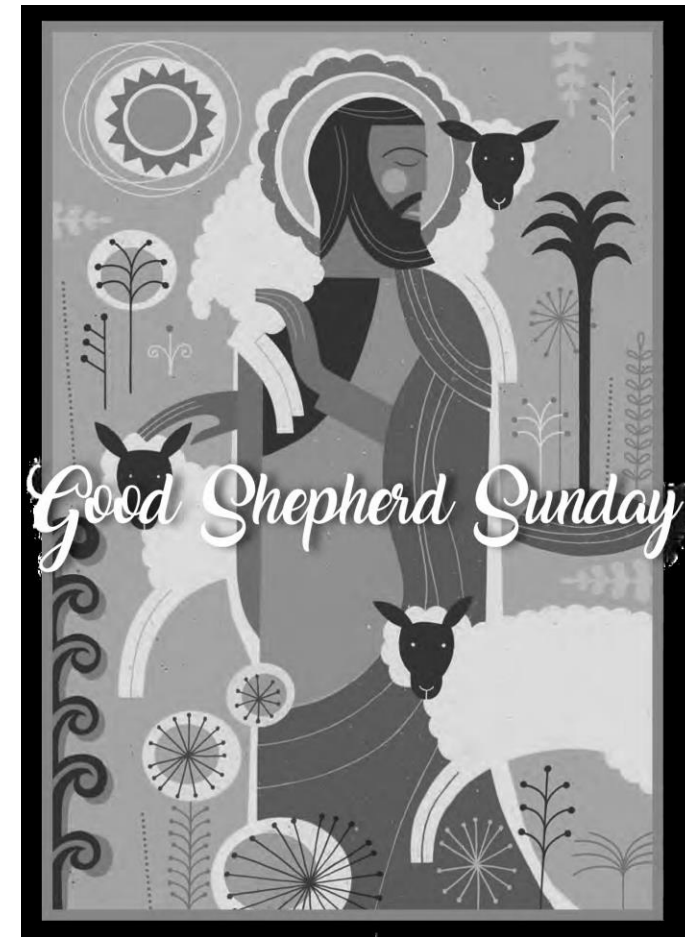
From Sundays and Seasons.com.

Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies

**Annual License #SAS103509**

**One License#A715172**



**Rev. Soren Flessen**

**Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek**

**Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley**

**Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny**

**Ministers- The People of Redeemer's**

LECTOR      9:30am      Steve Nowlan



*Are given to the Glory of God!*

*Dates are still available for altar flowers. Sign up today!*

TODAY is **Good Shepherd Sunday**. We are taking a separate collection to support the ministries provided by LSSI. Please use the envelope provided. Thank you.

*Announcements & Sharing*

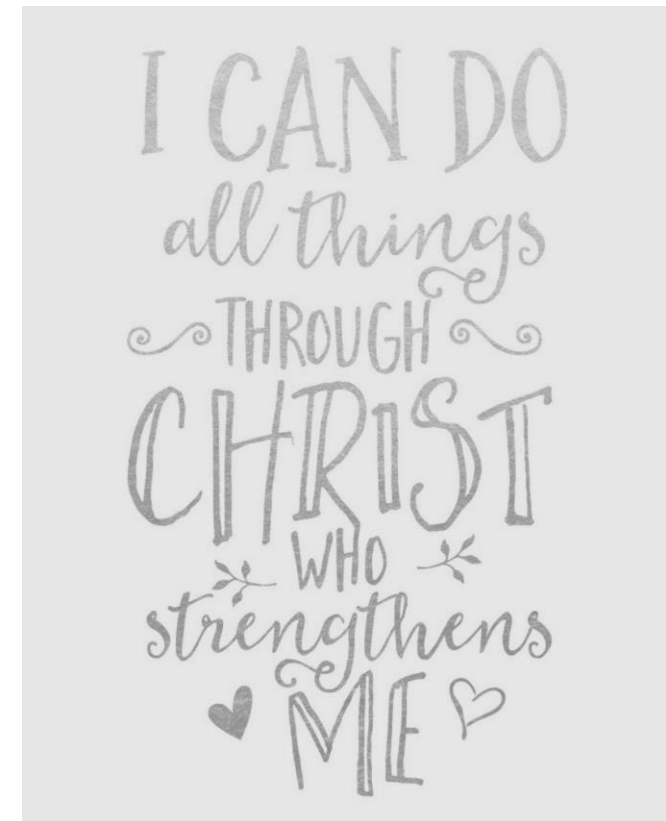
*Dismissal*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



*Invitation to Holy Communion*

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.  
(Please remain standing)

*Distribution of Holy Communion*

**Communion Song:** “Lamb Of God”

**Refrain:** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy on me.

*Blessing after Communion*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Risen, Living Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Blessing*

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song:** “I’ll Fly Away”

1 Some glad morning when this life is over I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore I'll fly away

**Refrain:** I'll fly away, oh, Glory I'll fly away  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by I'll fly away

2 When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away  
Refrain

3 Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away  
To a land where joy shall never end I'll fly away Refrain



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”

April 25, 2021

+++++  
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 as able)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song: “Jesus in the Morning”**

- 1 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning  
Jesus in the noontime; Jesus, Jesus,  
Jesus when the sun goes down.
- 2 Praise him, praise him, praise him in the morning,  
praise him in the noontime; praise him, praise him,  
praise him when the sun goes down.
- 3 Love him, love him, love him in the morning  
love him in the noontime; love him, love him,  
love him when the sun goes down!
- 4 Serve him, serve him, serve him in the morning,  
serve him in the noontime; serve him, serve him,  
serve him when the sun goes down.
- 5 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning  
Jesus in the noontime; Jesus, Jesus,  
Jesus when the sun goes down.

**Kyrie/ Hymn of Praise:** People sing refrain:

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.  
Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.

**The Prayer of the Day**

**C:** 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 be seated)*

*The First Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Acts*

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name to the religious authorities.*

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you . Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Offertory Prayer*

P: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*(Please stand as able)*

*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*Preface*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,....., we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Words of Institution*

**Lord’s Prayer** *(spoken)*

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

*Prayers of Intercession*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities (*specific concerns may be named*), fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

<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.”

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Song:**

**“Jesus Name Above all Names”**

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,  
Glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word. (Repeat)**

*The Second Reading is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of 1 John*

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

<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.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.  
(Please stand as able)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**  
(Please be seated)

Sermon

(Please stand as able)

### ***Sermon Hymn: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"***

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.**
- 2 We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.**
- 3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.**
- 4 Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.**

### ***Nicene Creed:***

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.**