

A Mother's Love like Our Shepherd's Love

May 11,
2025



Fourth Sunday
of Easter

Welcome, guests! We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be more than happy to assist you. This folder includes all the details about our services, with the congregational responses indicated by indented, bold letters. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this will be used solely by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: On Good Shepherd Sunday, God's Word shows us our Shepherd, Jesus, who leads his flock to safe pastures and his eternal fold.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THANK YOU: A special thank you to Pastor Thad Bitter for leading our worship while Pastor Emmons is in Minnesota.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP – CW, Pg.15



OPENING HYMN:

#203

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

****Please Stand for The Last Verse****



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth. Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And to de - stroy what he has done.
we May sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife, And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

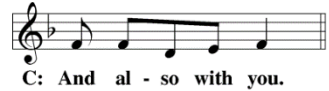
GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
 we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
 God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
 sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 13: 15, 16, 26 – 33

Paul preaches an “encouraging” message of Biblical proportions and eternal consequences. The Good News is that the Messiah has come. He is the Savior sacrificed for sinners, the conqueror of death witnessed by his followers. Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, verified by the Father himself. He has the power and authority to shepherd his people Israel.

After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Gentlemen, brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, say it.”

Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

Gentlemen, brothers, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you. The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the statements of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. Though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These same individuals are now his witnesses to the people.

“We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 23





Refrain

The LORD is my shepherd,*
 I shall not be in want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
 he leads me beside quiet waters.
 He restores my soul;*
 he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
 You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

REVELATION 7: 9 – 17

The paradox of Christ is that he is both Lamb and Shepherd. He saves his flock, by shedding his blood as the Lamb sacrificed for sin. This is the Good Shepherd we needed: God in the flesh, sacrificed for our atonement. But now, washed in his blood, the white robed host is led by the Shepherd-Lamb to the springs of living water and a life where everything that once was wrong is made right forever.

After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb. All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?" And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

And he said to me: These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Because of this

they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)



GOSPEL

JOHN 10: 22 – 30

Christ's words to his enemies were as simple as they were stark: You do not believe that I am the Christ because you are not my sheep. As a shepherd dividing goats from the sheep, Jesus drew a sharp distinction between these unbelievers questioning him and the believers who followed him.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.

So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered them, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Please Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#375

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS



1 We have a sure pro - phet - ic Word
 2 By pow'rs of em - pire banned and burned,
 3 What - e'er the Word in times of old
 4 A - bid - ing, stead - fast, firm, and sure,



By in - spi - ra - tion of the Lord,
 By pa - gan pride re - ject - ed, spurned,
 Of fu - ture days and deeds fore - told
 The teach - ings of the Word en - dure.



And, though as - sailed on ev - 'ry hand,
 The Word still stands, the Chris - tian's trust,
 Is all ful - filled while a - ges roll,
 Blest all who trust this stead - fast Word;



Je - ho - vah's Word shall ev - er stand.
 While haugh - ty em - pires lie in dust.
 As traced on the pro - phet - ic scroll.
 Their an - chor holds in Christ, the Lord.

Text: Emanuel Cronewett, 1841–1931, alt.
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

SERMON TEXT:

PSALM 23: 1 – 3

SERMON THEME:

NAMES ARE IMPORTANT

Please Stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Please Be Seated

OFFERING – In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul tells us: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

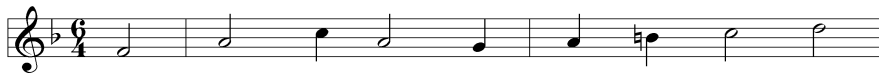
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

RESPONSE HYMN

#432

I AM JESUS LITTLE LAMB



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness To
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From
 5 It bears to all the ti - dings glad And



sent his Son to save our race, Pro -
 made the a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice And
 robe our souls in roy - al dress; From
 sin and Sa - tan and the grave; It
 bids their hearts no more be sad; The



claims how Je - sus lived and died That
 calls the souls with guilt op - pressed To
 all our guilt it brings re - lease And
 works the faith which firm - ly clings To
 wea - ry, bur - dened souls it cheers And



we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 all the trea - sures which it brings.
 ban - ish - es their guilt - y fears.

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

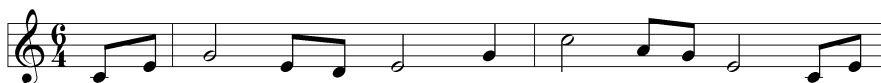


Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN:

#374

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need— Je -
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, His
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God At -



ho - vah is his name. In pas - tures fresh he
 pres - ence is my stay; One word of his sup -
 tend me all my days; Oh, may his house be



makes me feed Be - side the liv - ing stream.
 port - ing breath Drives all my fears a - way.
 my a - bode And all my work be praise.



He brings my wand - 'ring spir - it back When
 His hand, in sight of all my foes, Will
 There would I find a set - tled rest While

I for - sake his ways And leads me, for his
still my ta - ble spread; My cup with bless - ings
oth - ers go and come, No more a stran - ger

mer - cy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
o - ver - flows; His oil a - noints my head.
or a guest But like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: RESIGNATION (CM D) *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, Winchester, VA, 1832.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus’ redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment, and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Study: We will continue our study of Luke's Gospel on Sunday, May 18.

Midweek Bible Study: Due to Pastor Emmons being called out of town, our Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume on May 20 at 6 pm at Pastor Emmons' home, located at 4927 SW Yew Pl, or you can join us via Zoom. We will focus on reaching out to our neighbors using the One by One Bible study by Pastor David Rosenau. To join us on Zoom, the link is provided, or you can email Pastor Emmons, and he will send you the link.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Annual Voters Meeting: Our voting assembly will convene on May 18; the meeting will follow our service to consider amending the by-laws, approving the budget, and addressing any other matters the voters need to discuss. We currently have 18 voting members and need a quorum of 12 to conduct business.

Area Pastor Conference: Grace is hosting the southern congregations of Oregon; they will meet on May 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Redmond at Pastor Emmons' home. Our congregation will need to provide breakfast and lunch for five pastors.

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