

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

Easter People Follow

As We Gather

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

PREPARATION

Opening Songs

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
At the impulse of Thy love;

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Always, only for my King;

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;

Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Instrumental

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Instrumental

Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.

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O Christ The Same

Verse 1

O Christ the same through all our story's pages
Our loves and hopes our failures and our fears
Eternal Lord the King of all the ages
Unchanging still amid the passing years
O Living Word the source of all creation
Who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze
O Christ the same who wrought our whole salvation
We bring our thanks for all our yesterdays

Verse 2

O Christ the same the friend of sinners sharing
Our inmost thoughts the secrets none can hide
Still as of old upon Your body bearing
The marks of love in triumph glorified
O Son of Man who stooped for us from heaven
O Prince of life in all Your saving power

O Christ the same to whom our hearts are given
We bring our thanks for this the present hour

Verse 3

O Christ the same secure within whose keeping
Our lives and loves our days and years remain
Our work and rest our waking and our sleeping
Our calm and storm our pleasure and our pain
O Lord of love for all our joys and sorrows
For all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee
O Christ the same beyond our brief tomorrows
We bring our thanks for all that is to be

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Timothy Dudley-Smith
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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

- P** The Grace of our Savior JESUS CHRIST, The Love God our Heavenly Father.
The Peace of God the Holy Spirit, Be With You All!
C And also with you!

Opening Sentences

John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1-3, 5, 10; 106:48

- P** Jesus said: "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."
C **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**
- P** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.
C **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**
- P** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.
C **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

- P** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
C And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD!

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
C **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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.
C Amen.

WORD

Psalm

Psalm 23

- C** **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- I** *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*
II *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*
- C** **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.**
- I** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

II *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

C **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.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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

Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:11–18

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Song of the Day

The Way (New Horizon) Pat Barrett

Verse 1

Through every battle
Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe that You are my fortress
You are my portion
You are my hiding place

Chorus

I believe You are the way
The truth the Life

Verse 2

I believe through every blessing
Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe that You are provider
You are protector
You are the One I love, I believe You are

Chorus

Instrumental

Bridge

It's a new horizon, and I'm set on You
And You meet me here today with mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts they can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I'm here with You

Repeat Bridge

Chorus 2x

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Sermon Robert O. Bartz, Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) Pastor
MESSAGE THEME: JESUS...Bystander?...Observer?...Participant?

What does JESUS Desire?

JESUS at NASCAR

Crashes are Inevitable

JESUS at the Kentucky Derby

Positioned to Witness

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR MEDITATION

2 Chronicles 16:9

Isaiah 66:9

Jeremiah 17:5-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-15, 12:4-31


Revelation 3:14-22

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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** In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others. Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His undershepherds and all who care for His flock.
- C** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, [*especially . . .*].

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Offering: If you were prepared to bring an offering today, you may leave it as you exit the sanctuary. Member/Visitor and Prayer Request cards may be left with your offering as well. Thank you

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We give thanks to You for the gifts of bread and wine here before us and for Your gracious provision for all Your creatures. Invited by Your grace and supported by Your love, we come to Your Table with thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we receive, with true faith and trust in Your words of promise, the bread and wine, that is, the very body and blood of Christ, as a guarantee of the salvation that He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death on the cross. Receive our prayers and praises and grant that we may follow You as Your people, in this season of Easter and always. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord’s Prayer

C **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution Songs

One Bread One Body

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

The Table (Chris Tomlin)

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore
At His table

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore
At His table

Come all you weary
Come and find
His yoke is easy
His burden light
He is able, He will restore
At the table of the Lord

There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
And I won't worry anymore
At His table

There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore
At His table oh at His table

Come all you weary
Come and find
His yoke is easy
His burden light
He is able, He will restore
At the table of the Lord
I know He has a place for me
Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God

Come all you weary
Come and find
His yoke is easy
His burden light
He is able, He will restore
At the table of the Lord
At the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says, "Come just as you are"
To His table

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Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- 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.

Closing Song

Raise A Hallelujah

I raise a hallelujah
In the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah
Louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah

My weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah
Heaven comes to fight for me

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive

I raise a hallelujah
With everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah
I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah
In the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah
Fear, you lost your hold on me

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Sing a little louder
In the presence of my enemies
Sing a little louder
Louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder
My weapon is a melody
Sing a little louder
Heaven comes to fight for me
Sing a little louder

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive

Acknowledgments

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