

# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

May 11, 2025

## **Welcome/Announcements**

**No One Will Snatch Them from My Hand**

### **As We Gather**

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.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Opening Songs**

#### **On The Third Day**

Creation brings an offering  
As autumn leaves turn to gold  
The trees bow down in highest praise  
Now made bare before Your throne.  
The western sky an amber blaze  
At the end of the day  
For ev'rything must die  
To rise again

The winter's chill a bitter cold  
As sin and shame leave us to fall  
The clouds now full of newborn snow  
For grace to come and save us all

Within the darkest night of man  
Was found Your saving hand  
For ev'rything must die  
To rise again

Chorus 1

On the third day behold the King  
On the third day death has no sting  
On the third day  
We're forgiven and reconciled

The earth it groans in labor pains  
As flowers stretch to heav'n above  
Your creatures sing the prophet's song  
To be a gift of selfless love  
The sun is rising in the east  
And Your Spirit is unleashed  
For ev'rything must die  
To rise again

And so we wait in joyful hope  
For You to come and take us home  
And so we join beneath the cross  
In suffering from whence we go  
The greatest act of sov'reign grace  
In the universe displayed  
For ev'rything must die  
To rise again

Chorus 2

On the third day behold the King  
On the third day death has no sting  
On the third day  
We're forgiven and reconciled

On the third day the saints rejoice  
On the third day we lift our voice  
On the third day  
We're united and glorified (Chorus 2 – 2x)

## Shepherd (David Crowder)

### Verse 1

The Lord is my portion I shall not want  
The Lord my comfort I shall not fear  
Yea though I walk through the valley low  
Yea though the path gets steep

### Chorus 1

Surely goodness will follow me  
Ev'ry promise will be light to my feet  
When my heart is prone to wandering  
Jesus You shepherd me

### Verse 2

The Lord my keeper I stand secure  
The Lord my healer Your love endures  
Yea though I walk through the valley low  
Yea though the path gets steep

### Chorus 1

### Bridge

And I will dwell for all my days  
In the shadow of Your relentless grace  
And I will dwell for all my days  
In Your presence  
Your presence

### Chorus 2

Surely goodness will follow me  
Every promise will be light to my feet  
When my heart is prone to wandering  
Surely goodness will follow me  
Every promise will be light to my feet  
When my heart is prone to wandering

Jesus You shepherd me  
O my Jesus You shepherd me

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### Invocation

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

### Confession and Absolution

*Based on Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24*

**P** All we like sheep have gone astray;  
**C** we have turned every one to his own way;

**P** and the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins  
in His body on the cross  
**C** that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

*Silence for reflection and 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.

**P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the  
day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**C** Amen.

# WORD

## Psalm

*Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 4*

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.
- <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## 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 20:17–35*

<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And 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, <sup>19</sup>serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But 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. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay 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. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And 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. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In 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.**’”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Revelation 7:9–17*

<sup>9</sup>After 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, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits

on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>And 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, <sup>12</sup>saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup>I 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.

<sup>15</sup>“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.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>For 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.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

*Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

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

**P** I am the good shepherd.

**C** I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 10:22–30*

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

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

<sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,  
<sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So 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.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “**I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,** <sup>26</sup>but

you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My 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. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Song of the Day

### Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior  
Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would've thought that a Lamb could  
Rescue the souls of men  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
Hopelessly lost our way  
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

### Chorus

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father  
Faithfully loving Your own  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

Repeat Chorus



## Sermon

Guest Pastor, Rev. Ted Rellstab  
"A Loving Parent"  
John 7:9-17

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep. Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Father, Your Son has raised up undershepherds through whom He provides His care and protection, guarding us by His Word and nurturing our faith by His Sacraments. Make us attentive to their voice that we may be kept from danger and secured in the truth so that nothing can snatch us from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, we have seen Your goodness in the still quiet waters and rich green pastures You daily and richly provide. Give us wise and grateful hearts that we may receive Your grace with thanksgiving and treasure them in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. That they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, as Your Son has provided us the food of heaven and the cup of salvation in the communion of His own body and blood, make us ready to receive this gift through repentance and faith, and help us to show forth in our daily lives the fruits of this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your shepherding care. Bring us

at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*Additional petitions may be inserted here.*

**P** Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### 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.

**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

### Benediction

*Hebrews 13:20–21; Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

- 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

### Blessed Be Your Name (Matt Redmond)

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be your name.

Every Blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
when the darkness closes in, Lord  
Still I will say

#### Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's "all as it should be"  
Blessed be your name  
Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

Every Blessing You pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise  
when the darkness closes in, Lord  
Still I will say

#### *Chorus*

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord, blessed be Your name  
You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name, Jesus.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be your glorious name

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### **Acknowledgments**

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