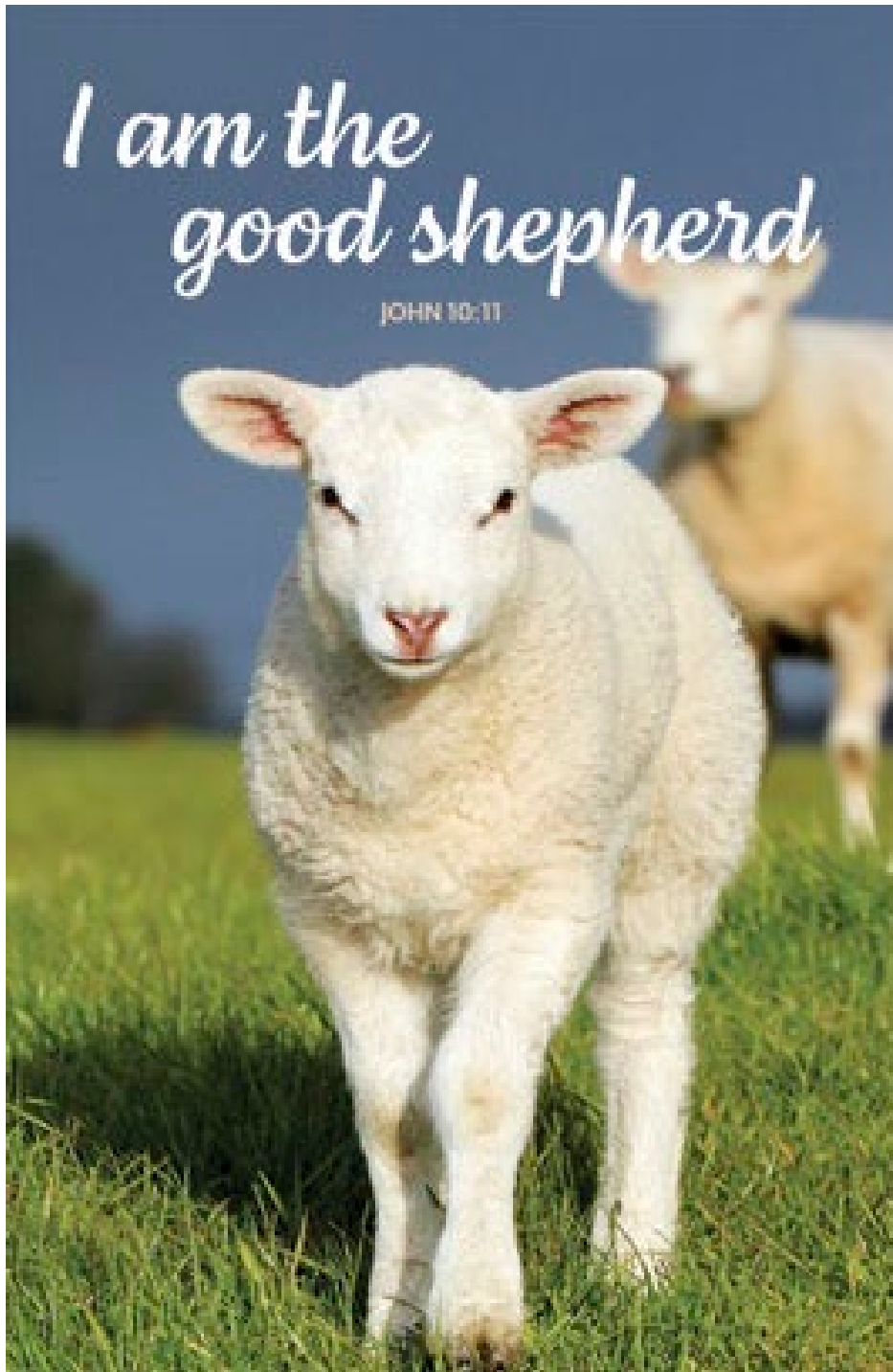


*I am the  
good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 21, 2024  
WORD AND PRAYER**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
613 LOCUST STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901**

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 21, 2024**

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**WORD AND PRAYER**

**THE PRELUDE ~**

*Stand.*

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**THE PRAYER FOR PURITY**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P The Lord God, Father and Creator spoke all these words saying:

a **I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land**

**of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;**

**You shall have no other gods before me.**

**You shall not make for yourself an idol.**

**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet.**

**Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

C **I confess to Almighty God, to the Apostles and saints in heaven and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I ask almighty God, the Apostles and saints in heaven and you my brothers and sisters to forgive me and help me amend my life.**

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As one called and ordained in the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P By the same authority, I declare to those who do not repent and believe, that so long as they continue knowingly, arrogantly and willfully in their sins, God has not forgiven them, and will assuredly bring judgment upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ.

C **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN ~ "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LBW476

Have no fear, little flock;  
Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen  
To give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear, little lock!

Have good cheer, little flock;  
Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you  
In his love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above;  
Praise the Lord high above,  
For he stoops down to heal you,  
Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God;  
Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For he stays close beside you,  
In all things works with you,  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

## THE GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

*Sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Acts 4:5-12

L A reading from Acts.

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.”

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM:** Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;\*

I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down | in green pastures\*  
and leads me be- | side still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He re- | vives my soul\*

**and guides me along right pathways | for his name’s sake.**

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall | fear no evil;\*

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;\*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,\*  
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

**Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,\***

**and to the | Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in | the beginning,\***

**is now and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

**THE SECOND READING:** I John 3:16-24

L A reading from First John.

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C **Alleluia. Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.\* I know my own and my | own know me. Alleluia.** (*John 10:14*)

### THE GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

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

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

[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!**

*Sit.*

### THE HOMILY

*Stand.*

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

## THE NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen:  
And 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**I look for the + resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions in the gospel. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



A Lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A Protect the very young and the very old, those who are ill, victims of abuse (*especially*). Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A Help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith, including Anselm of Canterbury, whom we commemorate today, and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel (*and*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P In the presence of Christ himself, let us pray as he has taught us.

a **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 BENEDICTION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

## THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia!  
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## SILENT PRAYER

## THE POSTLUDE ~

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