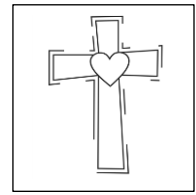


Perley Lutheran Parish  
May 3rd  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



## Welcome and Announcements

- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Fun to be back at Nora Lutheran – we will be going live from Kirkebo in two weeks.
- Thanks for the kids who helped with the Sunshine video challenge – will be posting the video soon.
- Thank you to everyone who helped support the Food Shelf the last two months – greatly appreciated at this busy time
- Continue to send in your offerings
- Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out
- Invite friends to watch!

## Opening Responses:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

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

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: **We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.**

P: To you God, be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

## Prayer of the Day:

**O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

## Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;** he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

## First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10, **Glory to you O Lord**

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### Children’s Message:

Today I am going to quote some popular phrases from some pretty famous characters and one real person. After I say the phrase, you have to do one thing to show me you know the answer. No, it’s not to raise your hand. When you think you know the answer, I need you to “Baa” like a sheep. Are you ready?

Go through each of the five phrases and allow kids chances to “Baa” and guess the answer. After they guess, show them the picture that goes with each phrase.

- “To infinity and beyond.” - Buzz Lightyear
- “Some people are worth melting for.” - Olaf
- “Just keep swimming.” - Dory
- “Me want cookie.” - Cookie Monster
- “In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.” - Mary Poppins

Was it easy or hard to guess who said each of these things? How could you be certain of who said each phrase?

You had to be pretty familiar with the movie and character to match their saying with the person saying it. If you had never seen the movie “Finding Nemo” you may not know that Dory says “Just keep swimming.” But if you have seen Frozen like 100 times, you could guess Olaf really easily. The more you know the movie and character, the better you know their voice. I have one more voice for you to guess.

“Love each other as I have loved you.” Who do you think said that? “Baa” when you want to guess.

Show children the picture of Jesus after they’ve guessed.

Jesus is not a cartoon character; He is the Good Shepherd who takes care of us. Jesus says that His sheep know His voice and follow Him.

Dear God, thank You that You help us hear and know Jesus' voice. We want to follow You today and always. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Message:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I had hoped to show you a video this morning – it's a video by Rodney Atkins and the song that he is singing is called "Watching You". The premise of the song is that the singer is a dad to a 4-5-year-old son. They are just hanging out on the farm and need to then head in the truck somewhere. The father picks up a happy meal for the son (his favorite of course) and while driving the dad needs to slam on his brakes and the French fries go flying. The young boy's response is not what the dad expects. The son blurts out a cuss word and the dad looks at the son in astonishment. The song then goes into the chorus:

"I've been watching you, dad. Ain't that cool? I'm your buckaroo, I want to be like you".

Well the dad takes this to heart and the video shows the dad praying in the barn and of course later that night the video shows the son doing the same at his bedside. The song goes on "he closed his little eyes, folded his little hands and spoke to God like he was talking to a friend and I said, 'Son, now where'd you learn to pray like that?'"

"I've been watching you, dad. Ain't that cool? I'm your buckaroo, I want to be like you".

I know that there were times when my boys were little that I saw them doing and saying and acting the way I and their dad had. They see things that we don't even know they see, right?? Remember the first time they cuss – just like in that video – and you realize that their little ears were tuned in unfortunately when you were having a "moment" as a parent. We are models – we are what they want to be when they grow up – and we are definitely required as parents to set a good example.

We all have role models in our lives. People that we looked to and watch as we grew up. I had a lot of wonderful, good and kind people as a child that helped me to become the person I am. In my spiritual life I had many people who helped me to understand and see where God can and should be in my life. I grew up spending a week or two in the summer visiting my grandmas in Ada MN. When I would stay there I would go to Grace Lutheran with my grandma Gorze for church – I loved the beautiful stained glass windows and the lights that hung from the ceilings. I always thought those lights had the suits of a deck of cards, hearts and diamonds and clubs and spades. I don't know if they do but as a kid that's what they looked like to me. After church, we would walk back home to her little house and while lunch was cooking in the oven, she and I would sit at the piano bench and play and sing the hymns that we had heard that morning in the service. We would end our evenings with prayers before bed and she always held God very dear and close to her heart. She was a wonderful role model for me.

For all of us, our parents are of course our first role models Like that little boy, we want to be the buckaroo or the mini-mom that we see our parents being. We learn from them how to act and how to have manners and treat others with a kind heart and caring way.

As we grow though there become so many more people and role models that mold our actions and beliefs. We of course have those that we see in history – those amazing people who formed and built our country and our freedom. There are the coaches, and the teachers and the bosses who help us do our best and get as far as we wish to go. We honestly, can never have too many role models – at least not GOOD role models. I've listed many options and people for us to look to for examples but let's be honest, there really is only one that can be the greatest role model of all and that is Jesus Christ.

When I was in college – the first of my three times I might add – there was a huge popularity in the WWJD – or What Would Jesus Do – phenomenon. It was popular because it was supposed to help us all

remember to think about our actions, our comments, our responsibilities based upon what Jesus would've done or said or thought. When we wondered what to do or how to respond we could quickly answer that simple question – what would He do to shed a little light or guidance. Direction for us on how to proceed. Sometimes just take that moment – a second to stop and think – is even enough to help you to do and say what is right.

We really have no greater role model – or example of how to live our lives – than Jesus. He came to be and dwell among us and completely emptied himself to be beside and with us in the form of man. He was born like you and I, he grew up with a mom and a dad like you and I, he felt pain and sickness like you and I, and he did it all for just one reason. His entire life among us was to lead him to his death. His end, the cross, was all he came here for – to die and rise and give us forgiveness and life everlasting.

Our Gospel today finds Jesus describing his actions as those of a shepherd – the good shepherd to be exact. A shepherd who is good at the job does everything they possibly can to protect their sheep. Everything, including laying down his life to protect the life of the sheep when those of evil – for a shepherd it came in the form of a four-legged creature like a wolf, or jackal or coyote. For Jesus, our shepherd, he faced those attacking his sheep in the form of sin and death. There wasn't anything simple or easy about defeating these attackers, it would require all that Jesus was and had. He would give his life for us to defeat death. He would have to give his life up for ours.

Jesus tells them what his intentions are *“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”* His sole purpose for coming, his sole purpose to live and die was so that we may have life, and have life abundantly. We have this life because he gave his and it's an amazing gift from God. God's created everything and everything we have and are is because of God. A relationship that only God could create for us and one that was given through the saving actions of the Son.

Well, what do you suppose we should do then with this amazing gift? How do we live in Jesus' image and care for others, use our gifts and do as the good shepherd did? Faith in God doesn't necessarily make our life and easier, or even solve all our problems once and for all. What it our faith does do is help us to know that when we are following God and have faith in Him we are following the right path. We are moving in the right direction – a future that filled with abundance and with peace. God's goodness and love will pursue us and as we look to the kingdom of God and his righteousness. It is worth that troublesome journey of life because we trust God for bringing us to that perfect destination. Taking us home where we will be the guests of honor to God Almighty our Host.

If we find ourselves not listening to God's guidance in our lives, if we don't listen to His voice and keep Him close, we may not only find ourselves separated from Him but also wandering in the wilderness of this life. We may find ourselves lost in this life and not knowing where to go – we may find ourselves the lost sheep. Only when we follow and listen to His voice can we be assured of his presence with us. And when he is with us, we are safe from whatever circumstance may come our way.

We may not be saints – there are many things in our lives that make God sad. We need to repent for those things that we do and say and think. We need to seek God's forgiveness and reconciliation. *“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture..... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* Here is the truth about an abundant life: in God's abundant grace, our Good Shepherd has given us more than just enough. Because having a full life doesn't depend on our level of comfort, our level of health, our level of wealth or any other thing that this world can give to us. The abundant life Jesus promised you and I is one filled with the things of God: the promise of his abiding presence every days, peace with God through his blood, his protection from thine

enemies – both physical and spiritual, his unwavering and unending love, his abundance mercy and forgiveness, the absolute certainty of salvation.

Those are the things your shepherd died for. Those things are yours whether you are healthy or sick, rich or poor. Those are things no one can take away from you. Those are the things a full, content, joyful and abundant life is made of. Today and every day our Good Shepherd calls to us. Listen to His voice and he will keep you safe and lead you to a life full of blessing now and forever in this home and in heaven. Amen

### Hymn of the Day: Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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.

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.

### Apostles Creed

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

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

### Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the education ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, faculty and staff at schools and colleges and all learning sites. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and farm our lands, who plant and harvest the crops and all those involved in agriculture and those who raise the animals we use to feed others. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Bless advocacy work, food pantries in our congregations so that none of our neighbors may lack for basic needs. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. We remember those within our congregations, those who join us online and those who we name silently in our hearts now who are dealing with struggles and health issues.....  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care through Christ our Lord. Let us together pray now the prayer that Jesus taught us:

### 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.

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

### Blessing:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

### Sending Hymn: Shepherd Me O God

Chorus:

Shepherd Me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life

Verses:

1. God is my shepherd so nothing shall I want. I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love. I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
2. Though I should wander the valley of death I fear no evil for you are at my side. Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.
3. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

### Dismissal:

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: <a href="mailto:mjenson001@luthersem.edu">mjenson001@luthersem.edu</a> Web Page: <a href="http://www.perleyparish.org">www.perleyparish.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:perleyparish@gmail.com">perleyparish@gmail.com</a>
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The Good Shepherd

# The Shepherd

## Dot to Dot



Connect the dots to complete the picture.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:4

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# The Shepherd's Voice

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV)

*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

H	I	G	K	T	G	V	L	F	T	Z	Z	T	E	Z
F	O	L	L	O	W	R	E	A	L	I	M	S	F	T
V	E	S	H	E	E	P	A	X	I	J	M	T	L	U
R	Z	S	A	V	E	D	D	E	F	N	U	H	I	J
A	Y	O	E	N	H	X	S	D	E	D	E	I	S	R
T	C	S	Q	A						I	N	E	T	D
A	L	H	E	M						G	O	F	E	M
F	K	E	E	E						P	B	G	N	R
P	E	P	L	V						N	E	A	H	O
F	A	H	M	K						Y	C	T	G	B
P	W	E	F	Y	R	Q	K	Q	S	Y	B	E	L	B
E	H	R	S	O	J	Y	J	H	N	B	H	X	E	E
N	D	D	O	T	A	V	A	X	C	R	B	E	Y	R
M	L	V	O	I	C	E	J	G	K	N	O	W	I	W
M	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	J	E	O	F	R	H



LIFE	LEADS	NAME	PEN	VOICE
KNOW	STRANGER	THIEF	LISTEN	FOLLOW
SHEEP	ROBBER	GATE	SHEPHERD	SAVED