



Perley Lutheran Parish
April 25th, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Gathering Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

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

Welcome and Announcements

Parking Lot Bingo

Reach out

Food Shelf

Gideon Bible Presentation

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in the Lenten season we heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil-all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving peace of reconciliation. On this day let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with God and each other.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us live together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen

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 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18, **Glory to you O Lord**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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."

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

Children's Message

Hello, children of God! How many of you have pets – you know I have puppies, right but I also have a cat. How do you think we should take care of our pets? We make sure they have food and water, and a safe place to stay. We help to take them outside when they need to and I play with it!

My Asher and Melvin and even Max my cat Max know my voice. If I call them, they recognize me and come – at least the puppies do most of the time. The cat – well you know how cats are. If I say let's eat – they always come running. They know that I care about them and will take care of them. In a tiny way, this is a little bit like being a shepherd.

Do you know what a shepherd does? A shepherd is responsible for taking care of sheep. There are some people who are shepherds now, but in the times of the Bible there were even more of them. The shepherd would guide the sheep to places where they could find grass to eat, water to drink, and a place to rest. Sheep are not always terribly smart, but they learn to follow the shepherd.

They know when he is talking to them and follow along, recognizing that he will lead them to good things. If a wolf or a bear tries to come attack the flock, the shepherd must protect his sheep, and be willing to fight off the predator.

In our Gospel today, Jesus compared Himself to a shepherd. He said that He was the gateway. He is the way to life, we are like sheep, wandering around and needing guidance. We can trust in Jesus to provide for us and to protect us. He said that a good shepherd would even lay down his life for the sheep, and that's exactly what Jesus did!

We can trust in His promises and rejoice that our shepherd has rescued us from sin and death. We can listen for His voice through prayer, Scripture, and discernment. And we know that He cares. Each

of us is precious in God's eyes, and we can rest assured that He listens when we call to Him, and gives us life. What a blessing! We should thank God for that...

Dear God,

Thank you for being the Good Shepherd. Help us to listen for your voice and to follow you and trust you. We know you will guide us and protect us. Thank you for caring about us. Thank you for your love. In Jesus name, Amen!

Message

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

This morning we are going to be looking at Jesus as the Good Shepherd. There isn't a church anywhere I would guess that doesn't have some kind of picture or stained glass windows – like right over there – in which Jesus isn't portrayed as a shepherd either surrounded by or carrying sheep in his arms. We all had that picture of Jesus with a shepherd around his back, nestled over his shoulders, in our Sunday Schools growing up I would guess. The idea of Jesus as the shepherd and us as his sheep is a common story and very good image of how we are being watched and cared for as a shepherd watches and cares for his sheep. We understand that part of our Gospel and we remember those images but for me there is a part of this passage that is even more wonderful and the idea that I am going to focus on this morning.

Facebook – you either love it or hate it. Some of us are on it all of the time and some of us are not only NOT on it but will NEVER be on it! Besides Google and You tube it's the third most popular website. So why do you think people like it so much?? I'm sure we all have stories about things that are bad about it – but what do you think is so good about it?? I'm sure if you asked people who are into human behavior and why people do what they do you would get all kinds of answers and theories. The one that I did find and liked the best said that Facebook allows you to do two things – it lets you know and keep up with others AND it's lets others know and keep up with you. I do love how it has brought myself and many of my childhood friends and classmates back in contact so perhaps this theory is a good one. We all can post pictures, write opinions (we sure saw and read a lot of that over the last year haven't we), let others know what and how you are doing and you can check out what others are posting as well to keep in touch. We can be known and know others.

Let's be honest, most of us want to be known and want to know others too. Jesus said in our Gospel this morning "*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.*" Jesus is telling us he knows us. Take a look around at those who are sitting here this morning – which of these people do you really know? Does anyone in this sanctuary REALLY know you – what you do and what you think each and every day? What you want and wish and hope for? What scares you and what you day dream about? Does anyone really know you – know all of this about you? They might know your church version, they might know your Facebook version, they might even live with you and know a lot about you and all of those answers but no one can really know everything – in fact, we might not want everyone TO know everything because they might not like us if they did. Right?? You know I love Giraffes, some of you know I hate vegetables, you know I love spending time with my family and serving others but that's what you see or what I have told you. You don't know everything about me and I surely don't know everything about you - but that's not the case for the Good Shepherd.

For Jesus, every single day of our lives is like "speak your mind day" in that he KNOWS it all. He knows us and every image we have in our mind, everything thought that we may have and he sees it all. You can't keep secrets from him – he knows everything and yet he gives us a miracle – he loves us despite all of what he sees and hears. He knows the real us and he loves us anyways. He is our Good Shepherd even though he sees our sins and thoughts and words and deeds. He forgives us of all that is not good and he loves us anyways. Love us so much that he lays down – he died on that cross for us – gave his life for us.

Isn't it a blessing? He knows our sins and forgives them all. He knows our fears and our worries and our hopes and he's a part of them all. When he looks at you and I, he knows what's a head – what our life will hold and what we will rejoice in and what we will struggle with. He knows his sheep and we know him. Now I would love to say that I have "friended" him on Facebook but we all know that's a bit silly. What I can say is that he is there for us – an open book to us – in the writings of the Word. If you think about it, the Bible has all the pictures, all the images and opinions you'll ever need to know about Jesus Christ. It is the place that you can visit (wouldn't it be amazing if we had the time to check the Bible out as many times as we may check Facebook out each day) to know what the Good Shepherd is thinking, to let him tell you and remind you that he loves you so very much that he laid down his life for you.

We've talked before about relationships – and how Jesus wants us in relationships with him and with other brothers and sisters in Christ. God wants a personal relationship with us and invites us to call him Father – like a Shepherd is to his sheep – God is a father to his sons and daughters. The idea of God wanting a personal relationship with each and every one of us is really incomprehensible isn't it?? How can he know every single one of us? It's true and when you think about it it is a bit humbling in knowing that he died for us so he could know and love us.

We have a constant invitation to be in a deeper relationship with God as he is always wanting us to trust and love him more – he wants us to know that he knows us and trust that he has us. He wants our relationship with him to be more grace filled, more abundant, trusting, forgiving and loving.

The Good shepherd – and the image that comes to us – is one of warmth, invitation and personal in that it resonates with God's desire to be in relation with you and your desire to be in relation with God. Jesus set himself apart from other shepherds – it's not normal for shepherds to lay down their lives for livestock such as sheep – but our Good Shepherd did. That's because we are worth everything to our God, we are valuable and His. We really are blessed and can rejoice in knowing that Jesus chose each of us as his sheep and to be OUR Good Shepherd. Let's hear it once more, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep" Let's pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd. You know our sins, and you forgive us. You know our fears, and you comfort us. You know our weaknesses, and you strengthen us. Help us to know you, all of our days. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: Have No Fear Little Flock
Have no fear little flock; have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, 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!

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: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Hope giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Suppress any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Abiding Shepherd, you love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit and help us to love one another in truth and action. Help our communities in our lives together and give us strength as a people of faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and love to find health and wholeness. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

After Communion Prayer

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witness, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior like a Shepard lead us, Much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us: for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou has bought us, Thine we are.

We are thine do thou befriend us; Be the guardian of our way;
Keep thy flock from sin defend us; Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear thy children when they pray;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear thy children when they pray.

Dismissal – Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday May 1st – Parking Lot Bingo at Kirkebo, 1-3pm

Sunday, May 2nd – Services at 9am at Nora (live streamed and in-person)

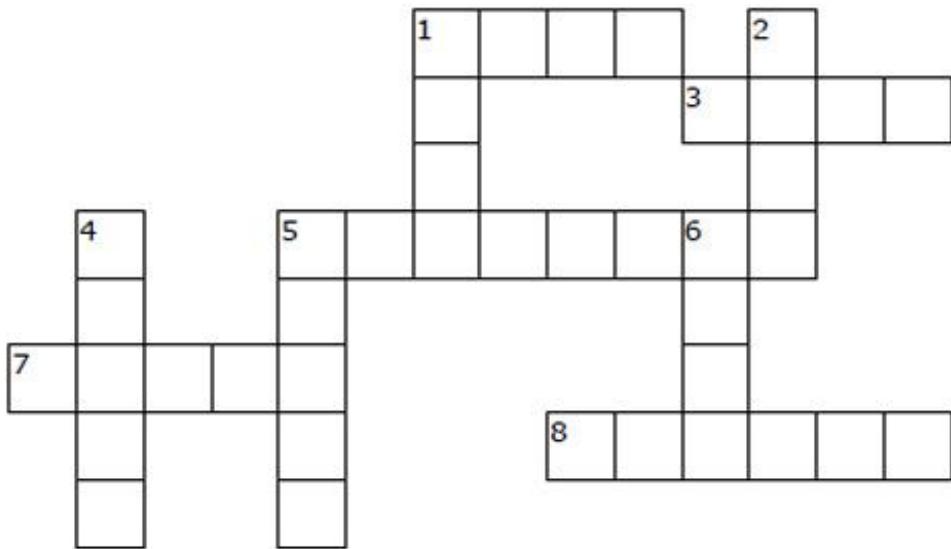
Sunday, May 9th – Services at 9am at Kirkebo (live streamed and in -person)



The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



ACROSS

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

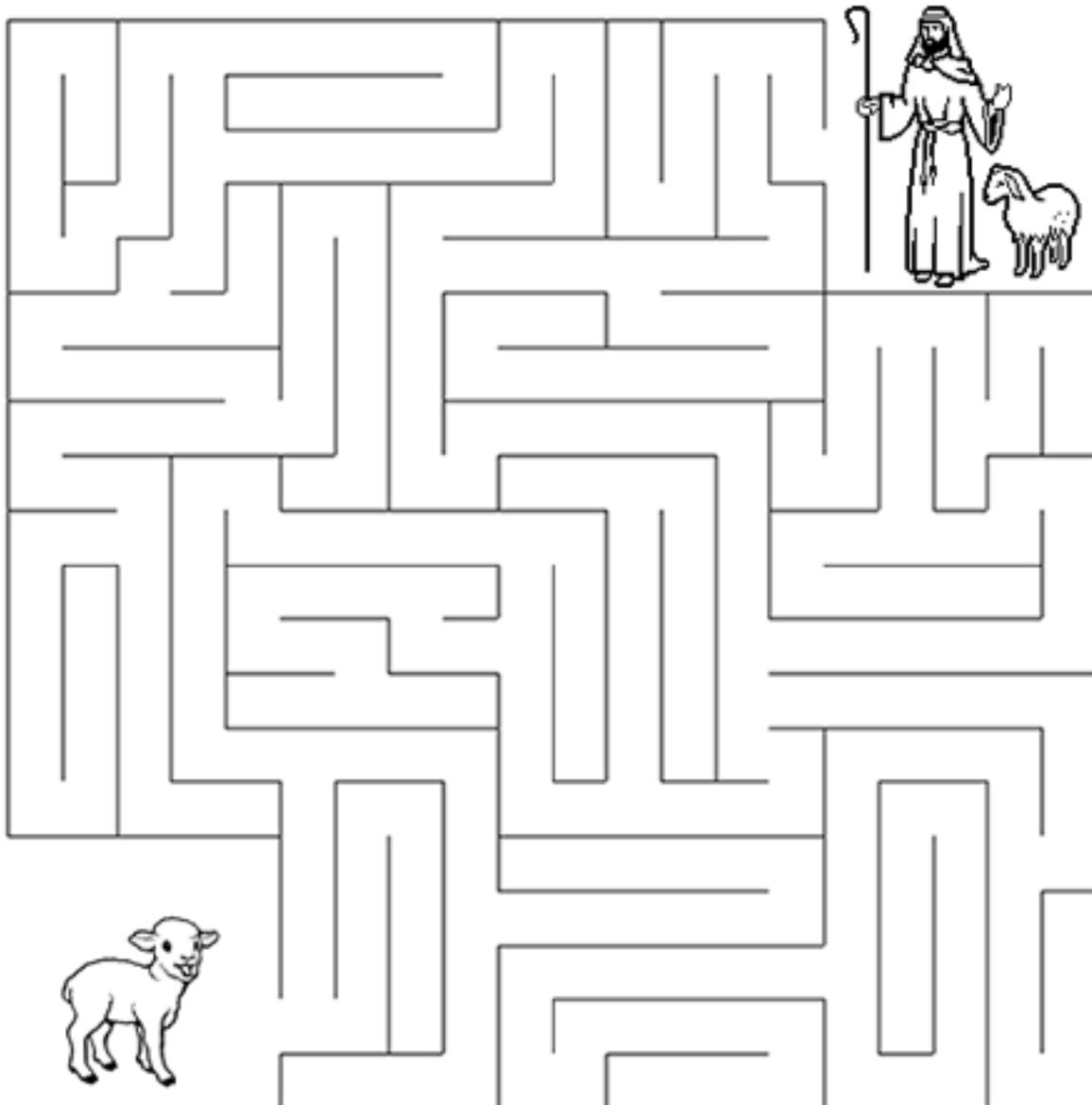
DOWN

1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Wooly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

SHEPHERD FLOCK	GOOD RUNS	LIFE VOICE	SHEEP LISTEN	WOLF LOVE
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Maze

The Good Shepherd
Help the sheep find his way to the shepherd.



The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

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

LISTEN

ATTACKS

SCATTERS

SHEEP

CARES

VOICE

LOVES

PEN

SHEPHERD

WOLF

GOOD

LIFE

FLOCK

RUNS

KNOW