

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; April 26-May 1, '21

**Mon Acts 4:23-33** These Christians were troubled on every side, **yet not crushed**; perplexed, **but not in despair**, persecuted, **but not forsaken**; struck down, **but not destroyed** (2Cor. 4:8-9), for trials constituted proof they were on God's side, and they trusted God's good judgment about such things (24-28). They prayed not for a way of escape, but for the courage to use their voices and hands in God's service; everybody was on board (29-33).

**Tues John 10:11-18** Good Shepherd Sunday comes around like clockwork, and Jesus still thrills us with this picture language about Himself and us. We also shiver at His warning about the fellow whose fears outweigh the needs of the sheep (11-13). We thank You, Jesus, for knowing and loving each of us, no matter what our background (16), and for serving us all the way to Your cross, into Your grave, and out the other side of the cemetery (17-18).

**Wed 1 John 3:1-2** God showered His love on lost sinners, was moved to have compassion on us, adopted us as His children, and at some future moment will allow us to see Him face-to-face – all in contrast to the *world* (everything anti-God and Satan-serving). What's our reaction? We want to live as His dear children—devoted, developing, and maturing (Eph. 2:8-10).

**Thurs Psalm 23** This psalm has been typecast as the last words ever heard by a convict—which is too bad, for it is a vibrant confession of faith sung by a child of God who lives every day in the sunshine of His love and anticipates more life (6) to enjoy God's beneficence. It suits **us** because we have been pardoned of our offenses by the head Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven.

**Fri Matthew 18:10-14** Jesus was generous with His time and energy, for He wants to save every wandering sheep, and because lambs are inexperienced, they need attention every minute (10,14). He's just as intent to rescue an adolescent or mature member of His flock; *if one of them goes astray, does the shepherd not seek the one that is straying? And if He should find it, does He not rejoice? What do you think?*

**Sat Acts 24:1-13** An *accusation* is not the same as evidence, and sensible folks know the difference. After the prosecuting attorney buttered up the judge (1-4), he laid his cards on the table—alleging that Paul was guilty of instigating civil unrest and was an anarchist (5). Besides, since Paul had insulted the Jewish religion, his case should have been left in the hands of Jews in their own church court. "However, you be the judge" (7-9). In pleading his own case, Paul clarified the time-line and his reason for being in the Temple—which was NOT to irritate anyone in any way whatsoever.

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Mason Goodwin

I AM THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
I KNOW  
MY SHEEP.

John 10:14



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## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 23

<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.

## ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN: TLH #51** "Now May He Who From the Dead"

1. Now may He who from the dead Brought the Shepherd of the sheep, Jesus Christ, our King and Head, All our souls in safety keep!
2. May He teach us to fulfill What is pleasing in His sight, Perfect us in all His will, And preserve us day and night!
3. To that dear Redeemer's praise, Who the covenant sealed with blood, Let our hearts and voices raise Loud thanksgivings to our God.

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

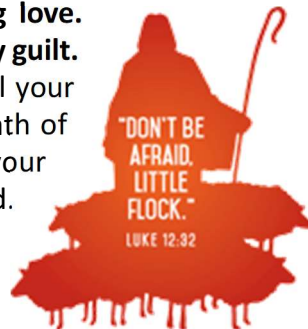
### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

☞ We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

☞ Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from *conception*. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

☞ God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

☞ Amen!



3. Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb? And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended, He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

## ✠ Announcements ✠

**Treasurer's Report** – The Lord continues to provide with a surplus of **\$6,659** income over expenses for the first 3 months of the year. Tuition is up due to enrollment of

24 students. The Property Improvement Fund is down reflecting the cost of re-roofing the parsonage and much-needed septic work across all properties. <> If you are able to contribute to the **Property Improvement Fund** to help off-set the current deficit, please do so. We also could use some **Petty Cash**, if you are willing to contribute. Thank you!

**Two Delegates** are needed to represent the congregation at this summer's CLC Annual Convention from June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are a voting member of the congregation and think you'd be able to serve in this role, please speak with either Ed Morris or Pastor. Thank you!

**Shut-in/Encouragement List** Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Paulette Galstad is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. Greg Tincher is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. Rudy Enriquez is home from the hospital and awaiting the beginning of treatment for his throat cancer. Joel Bernthal is recovering well from his knee surgery and is back at school in Eau Claire. Shirley Rosenberry is struggling with severe knee pain, please pray for successful treatment. Darrin Ream recently was in a motorcycle accident and is recovering from several injuries. We offer praise the Lord it wasn't worse, please also pray for Darrin's recovery.

**CLC Call News** – Pastor Caleb Schaller, Messiah, Eau Claire, WI has been called by Redeemer, Sister Lakes, MI <> Mr. Eric Libby has reconsidered his acceptance of the call to be Immanuel, Mankato's High School Assistant Principal / School Counselor. He has now returned the call. <> Soon to be Seminary graduate Drew Naumann, has accepted the call assigned to him by the Call Committee to be pastor of Trinity, Spokane, WA.

**Last Week:** WH – 34

**Total Offering = \$1,838**

General = \$655 | Tuition = \$1,025 | Tuition Grant = \$58 | Property Improvement = \$100

**Cleaner (5/1):** Rodebaugh | **Acolyte (5/2):** Mason Kuehne

may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No 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."

**Just How "Good" is Our Shepherd?**

- I. He's the greatest—both in strength and in meekness
- II. He knows His sheep—He cares, even in our weakness

**OFFERTORY**

*WS p.16*

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

**C** *♩* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

**HYMN: LSB #709:1-4, 6 "The King of Love My Shepherd is"**

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
6. And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

**PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C** *♩* Amen, amen, a – men.

**HYMN: TLH #648 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"**

1. I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am; For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need, and well provides me, Loves me every day the same, Even calls me by my name.
2. Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my Staff and Stay. When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me; When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

**INTROIT**

*Ps. 23; Jn. 10:14, 15b*

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- C** **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- P** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
- C** **He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- P** 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.
- C** **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**
- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY and GLORY TO GOD**

*WS p.13*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,

Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,

Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 4:23-33** When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"-- <sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. <sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

**2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – 1 John 3:1-2** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

## HYMN: TLH #338

**"Thine Forever, God of Love"**

- 1. Thine forever, God of Love! Hear us from Thy throne above; Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!**
- 2. Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest! Savior, Guardian, heavenly Friend, Oh, defend us to the end!**
- 3. Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife. Thou, the Life, the Truth, the Way, Guide us to the realms of day.**
- 4. Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.**
- 5. Thine forever! Thou our Guide, All our wants by Thee supplied, All our sins by Thee forgiven; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.**

**SERMON – John 10:11-18** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He 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. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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> And 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. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I