



# ***“OUR GOOD SHEPHERD”***

***Sunday, April 25, 2021 9:00AM***

***Worship Service***

## **AS WE GATHER**

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one's self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

*Sit*

## **OPENING SONG**

**“Cornerstone”**

**V1-V1-C-V2-C-Bridge-C-V3-C**

### **Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

### **Chorus**

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

### **Verse 2**

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

### **Bridge**

He is Lord Lord of all

### **Verse 3**

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

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*Stand*

## **INVOCATION**

**☩** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *(1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted)*

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**P** By this we know love,

**C** that He laid down His life for us.

**P** “I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord.

**C** The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**P** Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

**C** And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *(Psalm 23; John 10:11)*

**P** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**C** Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

**P** He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

**C** Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

**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** We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

**P** 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 forever.

**C** As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

**P** Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ’s laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen. Thanks be to God.

*Sit*

**SONG of PRAISE**

**“I Will Follow”**

**Intro-V1-C-Interlude-V2-C-Interlude-B-C 2x-Ending**

**Intro**

Where You go I'll go

Where You stay I'll stay

When You move I'll move

I will follow

Oh oh oh

### **Verse 1**

All Your ways are good  
All Your ways are sure  
I will trust in You alone  
Higher than my sight  
High above my life  
I will trust in You alone

### **Chorus**

Where You go I'll go  
Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow You  
Whom You love I'll love  
How You serve I'll serve  
If this life I lose  
I will follow (You)

### **Interlude**

Yeah I will follow You yeah

### **Verse 2**

Light into the world  
Light into my life  
I will live for You alone  
You're the One I seek  
Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone  
In You alone

### **Bridge**

In You there's life everlasting  
In You there's freedom for my soul  
In You there's joy unending joy  
And I will follow

### **Ending**

Yeah I will follow You yeah  
I will follow You yeah  
I will follow You yeah

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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

- C** 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;**  
**P** 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 4:1–12

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that [Christ] laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11–18

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

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

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] “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 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.”

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

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

## 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.

You are the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the times we fear our enemies and the powers against us, remind us that we belong to You and no one can snatch us from Your hand. We bring before the Lord the part of Your flock here in this place and others whom we love in their time of need, [*especially . . .*]. Carry them as lambs in a shepherd's arms through the difficult paths ahead. Give all wisdom to know the faithful path we are to take, and shepherd us through every trial, trouble, and temptation; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

**P** Give us courage that we not live in captivity to our fears; guide those who lead us in this and every land; provide peace, justice, and freedom for people everywhere. In our busy days, give us time to reflect upon the goodness of God and to experience joy in the security and peace You provide us, that we find contentment and peace in You; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

**P** Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and the public workers who keep our communities safe. Defend us from our enemies, and teach us to rely on Your provision, the true protector of us all; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

**P** That we do not forget those in need but share with all the Lord has entrusted to us and to display the kind of love shown and known that has no end; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

**P** That we recall the saints of old, who put their trust in the Lord, that we also be found faithful when He returns in glory; let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, 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.

*Sit*

**SONG of the DAY**

**“You Never Let Go”**

**V1-PC-C1-V2-PC-C2-C1-B-B-C1-C1-Tag**

### **Verse 1**

Even though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death  
Your perfect love is casting out fear  
And even when I'm caught in the middle  
Of the storms of this life  
I won't turn back I know You are near

### **Pre-Chorus**

And I will fear no evil  
For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me  
Whom then shall I fear  
Whom then shall I fear

### **Chorus 1**

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me

### **Verse 2**

And I can see a light that is coming  
For the heart that holds on  
A glorious light beyond all compare  
And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes

We'll live to know You here on the earth

### **Chorus 2**

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me  
You keep on runnin' and You never let go  
Singing

### **Bridge**

Yes I can see a light  
That is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes  
Still I will praise You, Still I will praise You

### **Tag**

Lord You never let go of me

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## **SERMON**

### **BENEDICTION**

- 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**

**“My Redeemer Lives”**

**V-C-V-C-B-C-C-C**

### **Verse**

I know He rescued my soul  
His blood covered my sin  
I believe I believe  
My shame He's taken away  
My pain is healed in His name  
I believe I believe  
I'll raise a banner  
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

### **Chorus**

My Redeemer lives  
My Redeemer lives  
My Redeemer lives  
My Redeemer lives

## **Bridge**

You lift my burden  
And I rise with You  
I'm dancing on this mountaintop  
To see Your kingdom come

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