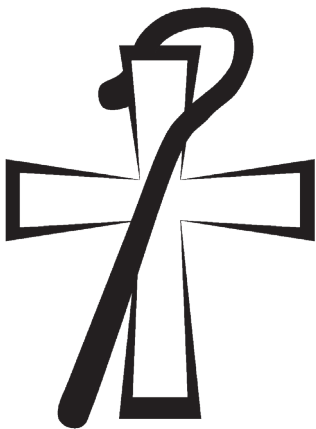


Easter 4

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is informally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his own and they know him. The shepherd, as opposed to the hired hand, will go to any length necessary to save his sheep. This is exactly what Jesus did when he died on the cross for the sake of those he loves. Salvation comes from one way only, through Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 4:1-12 **Peter and John are Arrested**
Peter’s preaching reached the hearts of around five thousand people who came to believe because of his witness, but it also reached the ears of the religious authorities who had him and John imprisoned for preaching that the resurrection had already come through Jesus. When interrogated, Peter boldly declared that Jesus was the only way through which salvation has or will come.

Psalm 23 **Shepherd God**
This familiar psalm reminds us that the Lord brings to us goodness, mercy, and life. We are cared for by God beyond measure like a shepherd cares for his sheep. There is no circumstance in which God will not be present for us and with us.

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24 **Love in Deed and Truth**
Jesus’ self-giving, even to the point of death, is the perfect example of Godly love. For those who follow Jesus, love will be similarly expressed in an active faith that cares for and helps others. Hollow words and empty platitudes will not show the world what Godly love is like, but only the ways in which we follow Jesus’ commandment to love one another can do that.

Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18 **Jesus, The Good Shepherd**
Jesus compared himself to a good and caring shepherd who was willing to go to any extreme, even laying down his life, in order to protect his flock. Likewise, the shepherd’s flock would recognize and follow him for they know his voice.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- Jesus spoke to his disciples about false shepherds (Matthew 7:15-16). These false shepherds seek to lead people away from the Lord and his holy Word. Jesus said they would be known by their fruits.

Similarly, Martin Luther repeatedly wrote about false gospels, warning people to look closely at movements and teachings because the enemy likes to masquerade and fool people.

What are the false gospels of today?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name	328/329	---	549	634	16	16
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
The Lord’s My Shepherd	451	---	710	778	209	209
Have No Fear, Little Flock	476	---	735	764	202	202
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Children of the Heavenly Father	474	---	725	781	201	201
Come, Thou Almighty King	522	---	905	408	247	247
We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight	---	675	720	635	---	---
This is My Father’s World	554	---	---	824	34	34
Come, Let Us Eat	214	---	626	491	---	---

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
One Thing Remains (CCLI# 5508444)
All Creatures of Our God and King (CCLI# 6529800)
Amazing Grace (My Chains are...) (CCLI# 4768151)
Lead On, Good Shepherd (CCLI# 7209206)
You Never Let Go (CCLI# 4674166)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.