



(During this time of extraordinary circumstances, this abridged Liturgy of the Word is designed to be used in the home in conjunction with its corresponding online video podcast.)

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

ELW # 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT. Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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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. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²(The believers) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

The Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Jesus said) ¹"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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Anthem

"Down to the River to Pray"

Traditional

Homily

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith:

**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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

God of grace, we pray for your Church, both here and around the world, that as our Easter celebration continues, our ears may be opened to the voice of our Savior, and the new life which he gives will stir in our hearts and be demonstrated in our living. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray for all who strive for the healing, protecting, and care of others; for medical personnel, first responders, assistance workers, and so many others, that your Spirit enable them to be instruments of life, shepherds of compassion, and conduits of hope. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray that you would bring healing and renewal for all who wait for more positive news. Breathe into our restlessness and uncertainty the peace you promise, that is deeper and richer than anything we can even imagine. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray for the needs of your people, for those who wrestle with daily struggles, for those with financial difficulties, and for those who carry heartache and brokenness within themselves. We lift up to you the needs of *Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Arlene Schirmer, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Bill Rickrim, Frances Franz, Charlie Boehme, Alwin Schaefer*, as well as those whom we name either aloud or in our hearts. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

With alleluias in our hearts and on our lips, we commend to your care, O Lord, all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your Kingdom, and help us to pray:

Our Father...

Benediction

God has given us a new and living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to new life, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

ELW # 789



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



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Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ your Shepherd goes before you.
Amen! Alleluia!

Postlude

*The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).
For prayer requests, please contact the church office (210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

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