



**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

*"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"*

502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205

www.StJohnsSA.org ♦ info@StJohnsSA.org

Phone 210-223-2611

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 30, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Pastorale on a Celtic Alleluia by Richard Proulx*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please stand.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive 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.

**C: Amen.**

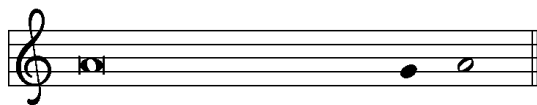
**Gathering Hymn**

**Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! (ELW 369)**

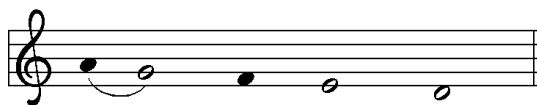
**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**



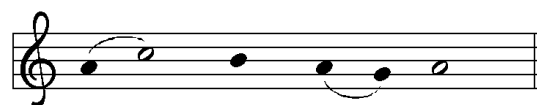
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



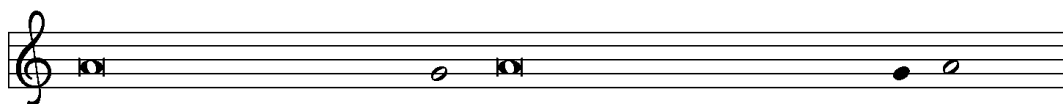
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



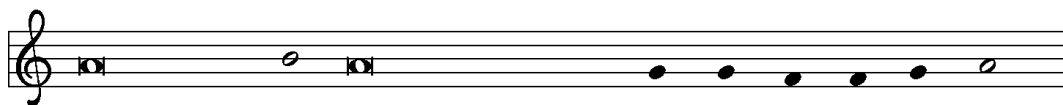
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

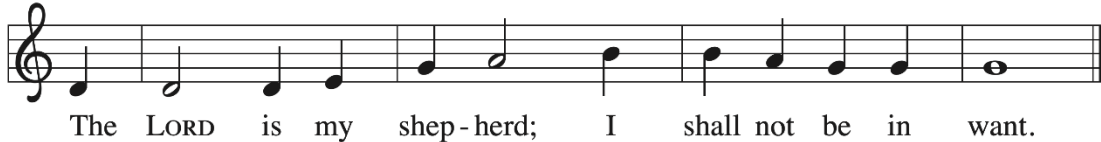
<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day 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, <sup>47</sup>praising 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



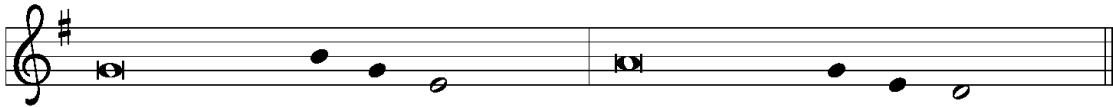
**Psalm: Psalm 23**



Psalm 23:1

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup>side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever. R**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (*Cantor sings refrain, then all repeat*)

**Refrain:**



Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The 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.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Refrain:**



*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Craig Sagebiel**

*Please stand.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is (*ELW 502*)**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Prayers of Intercession

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace, with special care in our hearts for Viola Caraway, Rosemary Petry, Dottie Bowles, Dawn Sulaica, Karen Iredale, Chris Gates, Louis (Buddy) Blank, Gaelyn Burk, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, and Gary Reiminschneider. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## **Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** *(Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

*Please be seated.*

## **Offering**

## **Offertory**

*Loving Shepherd of thy Sheep* by Philip Ledger  
St. John's Choir



*Please stand.*

## Offertory Response

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Musical score for the offertory response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

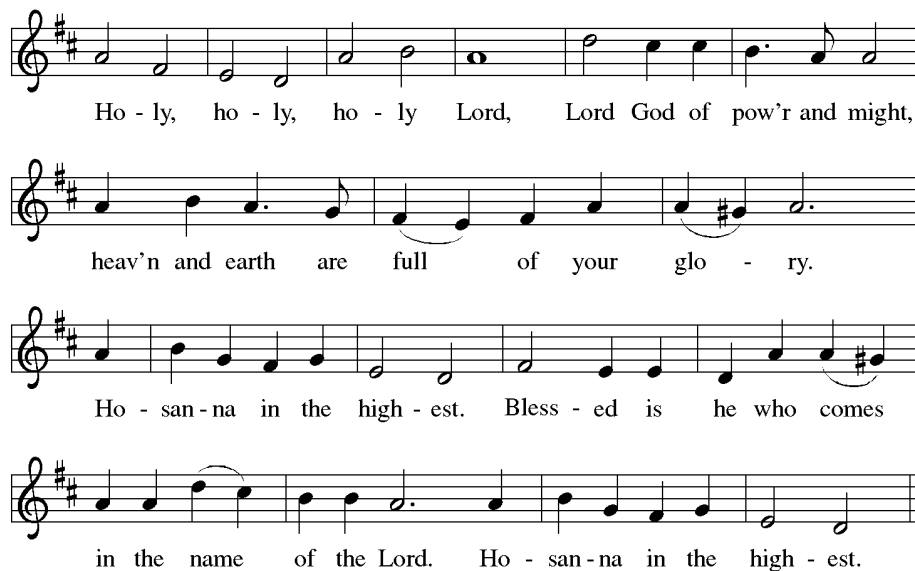
C: Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving

Musical score for the Great Thanksgiving. It consists of four lines of music, each with a treble staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

P: It is . . .

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: Remembering . . .

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

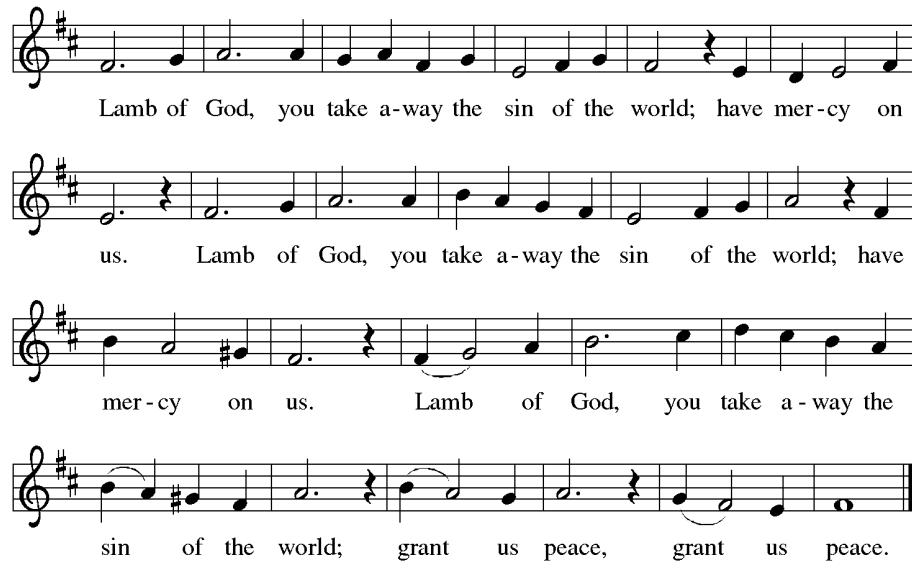
**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**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.**

P: When we eat this bread we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

### **Music During Holy Communion**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (ELW 789)*

*Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus (ELW 501)*

### **Holy Communion**

*Please stand.*

### **Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

**The Risen Christ (ELW 390)**

### **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Prelude in C Major (BWV 553) by Johann Sebastian Bach*

You are all invited to join us, in the Memorial Hall, for fellowship and refreshments, after service.

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Church in America**

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