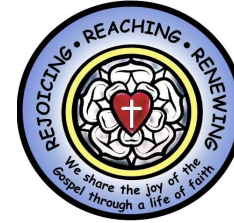


Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620
www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

April 26, 2026 † Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

† GATHERING †

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

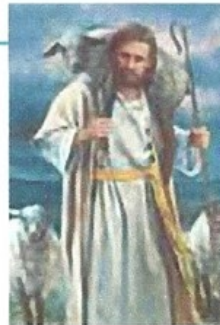
Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God’s grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord’s meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



FHE funstuf

The Good Shepherd

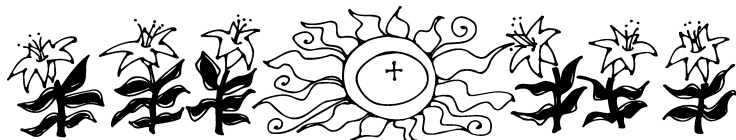


By William Schlegl

In Psalm 23:1, David acclaims: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” A shepherd looks after each and every one of his sheep, just as Jesus Christ looks after each and every one of us. To discover what happens when we follow Jesus Christ, write the letter that comes in alphabetical order between each pair of letters on the blank. (For this puzzle, A follows Z). Check your answer in the scripture.

RT TV QS DF KM XZ FH NP NP CE MO DF RT RT
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
ZB MO CE LN DF QS BD XZ RT GI ZB KM KM
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
EG NP KM KM NP VX LN DF ZB KM KM SU GI DF
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
CE ZB XZ RT NP EG LN XZ KM HJ EG DF
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
ZB MO CE HJ VX HJ KM KM CE VX DF KM KM
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
HJ MO SU GI DF GI NP TV RT DF NP EG
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
SU GI DF KM NP QS CE EG NP QS DF UW DF QS
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

(Psalm 23:6).



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Easter Acclamation

The Lord is risen!
He is risen indeed!

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

The Lord is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Confession and Forgiveness

Jesus Christ was the first to conquer death,
the ruler of all the kings of the earth.

He loves us, and by his blood he set us free from our sins.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess to you that we are dead in trespasses and sins.

Like wayward sheep, we all have turned away;

we have not heeded our Shepherd's voice.

**In your great mercy deliver us from the death we deserve,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

In him we have forgiveness, life, and resurrection from the dead.

If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, dwells in you,
then the One who raised Christ from death
will also give life to your mortal bodies.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Benediction

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning to dancing.

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

#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.



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.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868
Pubic Domain



1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
 2 With joy-ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat-i-tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys-t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
 that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth-er in your name in truth and char-i-ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997 © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia
 Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996
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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Holy One,

**through this meal you have made your home among us
 and are making all things new.**

**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies,
 and to bring your healing to the nations.**

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements



Opening Hymn

O Christ, Our Hope

#604



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de-sire, cre-a-tion's
 2 How vast your mer-cy to ac-cept the bur-den
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran-som
 4 Oh, let your might-y love pre-vail to purge us
 5 All praise to you, as-cend-ed Lord; all glo-ry



might-y Lord, re-deem-er of the fall-en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru-el death to
 has been paid; you reign a-bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be-fore your throne by
 ev-er be to Fa-ther, Son, and Spir-it blest through



ho-ly love out-poured, by ho-ly love out-poured:
 make us clean with-in, to make us clean with-in.
 robes of light ar-rayed, in robes of light ar-rayed.
 mer-cy pu-ri-fied, by mer-cy pu-ri-fied.
 all e-ter-ni-ty, through all e-ter-ni-ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
 Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561
 Public Domain

Opening Litany

We, like sheep, are in search of greener pastures.

We are always on the lookout for ways to make life better.

**But there really is only one way —
 through the gateway of our Good Shepherd.**

We wander into fields filled with false promises and hidden pitfalls.

There we find ourselves lost and alone.

We head for pastures where money rules and power is a must.

There we are overcome only with the need for more.

We feed on the grasses of personal pleasure and selfish satisfaction.
There we sit in shallowness and ignore everything except ourselves.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, calls us to his land of care and compassion.
**Guide us, O Christ, through the gateway you opened for us,
 and lead us to your grace.**

Our Good Shepherd ushers us through, one by one.
**Guide us, O Christ,
 through the narrow way that you have fashioned for our survival,
 and lead us to life everlasting.**

Our Good Shepherd promises to nourish and provide.
**Guide us, O Christ,
 through the gateway that directs us to your bountiful blessings,
 and lead us to your gifts of heaven.**

There the pastures will always stay green.
There we will rest with our Savior forevermore.

Apostolic Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Kyrie

ELW setting 8

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.
 Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

Distribution Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* #502

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
 Music: Irish tune
 Public Domain

Distribution Hymn *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* #484

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

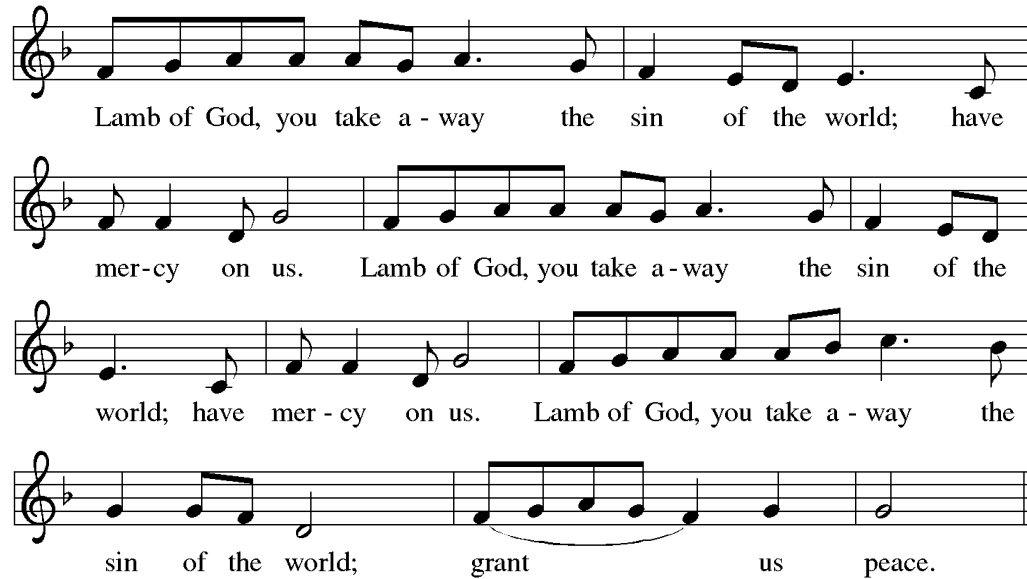
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW setting 3



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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Hymn of Praise *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing* #531 (v. 1)



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.

Refrain



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
 Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
 Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.
 The feast is read - y to be - gin;
 the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 © 1989 Make Way Music
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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Sustaining God,

as you lead your sheep to green pastures

and guide them beside still waters, so you have led us to this table
 where in bread and wine you restore our soul.

Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church
 through the abundance of this sacred meal.

As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us,
 sanctify this bread and cup and make them be for us
 the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
 who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
 broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,

*Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Saving God,

your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith.

Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home.

When you find them in the valley of fear,
 gather them in your arms.

When they face evil in the presence of enemies,

follow them with your goodness and mercy all the days of their life.

On that day when the shadow of death covers them,

bring them to dwell in your house forever.

Shepherd us with all your saints of every age

into your glorious presence,

where we shall behold your Lamb in seated glory,
 most Holy Trinity, now and always. **Amen.**



✠ WORD ✠

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.

A reading from Acts.

⁴²They 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.**

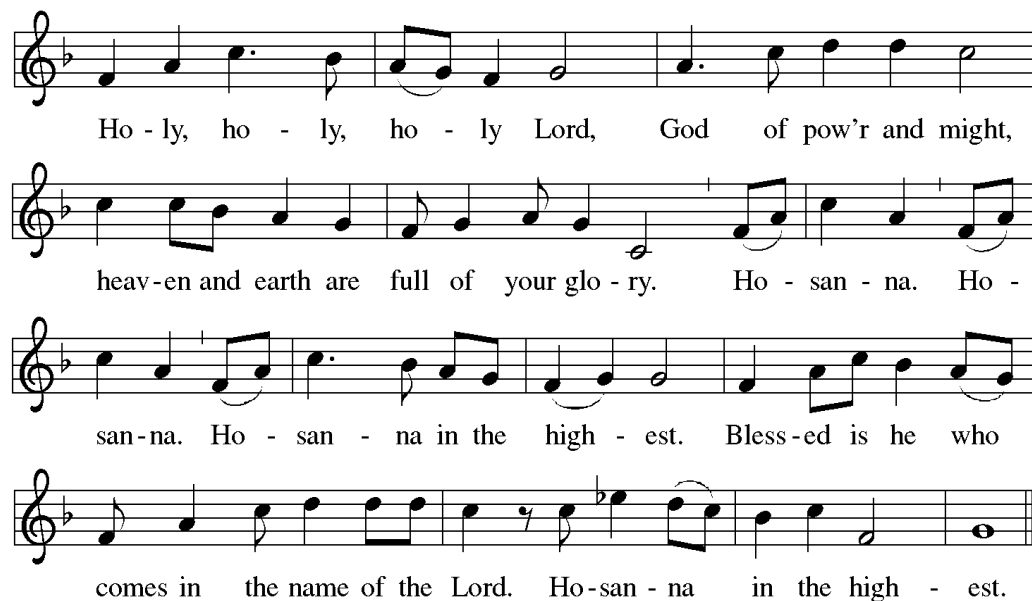
Proper Preface

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you
because you gathered your flock around Abraham,
and through Moses and Joshua
you brought your sheep to a place of safety.
In Jesus you came to us as a Passover Lamb
to take away the sins of the world.
As our everlasting Good Shepherd you promise
that those who hear your voice shall never be in want,
for you know your sheep by name, and you call us your own
and give to each of us a place in the sheepfold of your kingdom,
where angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven,
sing your unending praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 3



Psalm 23

Let us read Psalm 23 together.

- ¹**The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**
- ²**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- ³**He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- ⁴**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**
- ⁵**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.**
- ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

A reading from First Peter.

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When 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. ²⁴He 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.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hallelujah Verse

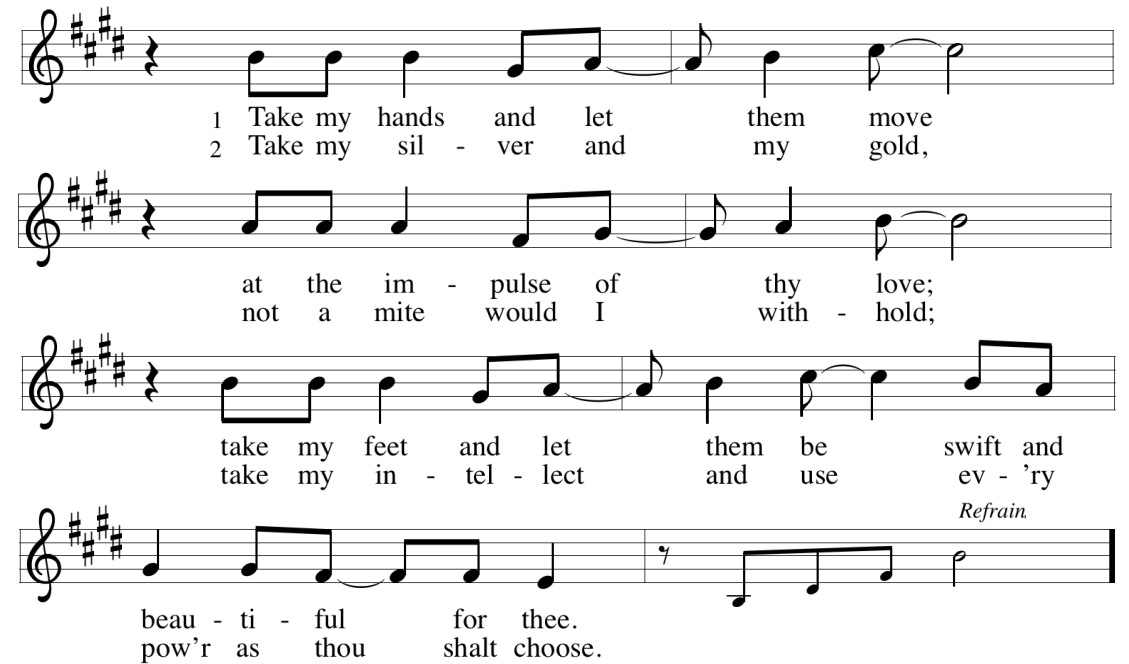
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

#172



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
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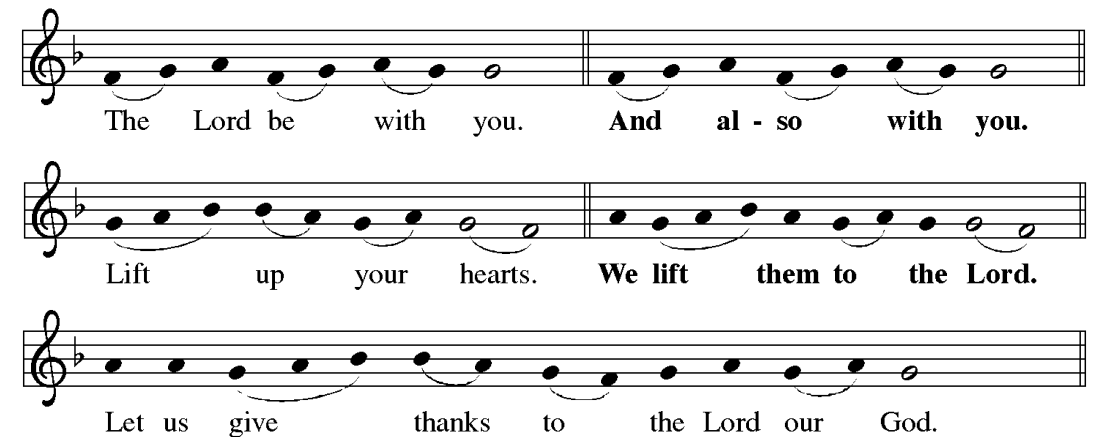
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
Refrain.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.
Music: William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
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✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

ELW setting 3



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response *Take My Life, That I May Be* #583 (v.1-2)

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

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 Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.
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.**

Children’s Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Have No Fear, Little Flock* #764

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

Hymn of the Day continues on the next page.



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
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 Music: Heinz Werner Zimmerman, b. 1930
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Nicene Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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.**

Prayers of the People

P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection
 to heal and redeem our broken world,
 let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A Shepherding God,
 draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness.
 Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world
 and guide us beside the still waters of your grace.

We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son,
 show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways.
 Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those
 who work for justice and advocate for human rights.
 Bring an end to oppression
 and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving,
 and anoint those who are ill or injured, *especially...*
 Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**