

St. John 10:9a



"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved."

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(ELW) No. 502

*The Confession and Forgiveness

(ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting

(ELW) page 138

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.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*)

(ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

(ELW) NO. 883

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant to all that are admitted into fellowship with Christ the power to avoid all things that are contrary to the faith and to follow You according to the will of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 23

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

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

³He revives my soul and guides me along right
pathways for His 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 spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble
me; You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words
of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

John 10:1-10

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Shall We Gather at the River

(ELW) No. 423

Sacrament of Baptism for Hudson Grace McNaught

found on page 227 in the ELW book

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The 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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

(ELW) No. 656

*The Dismissal (*response*)

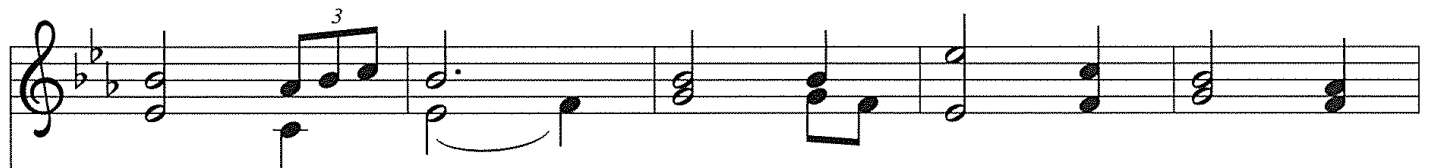
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

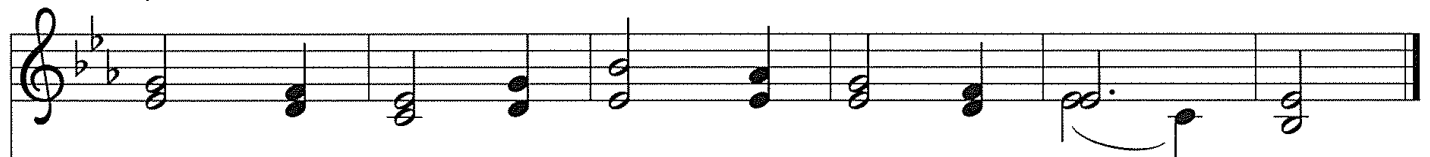
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



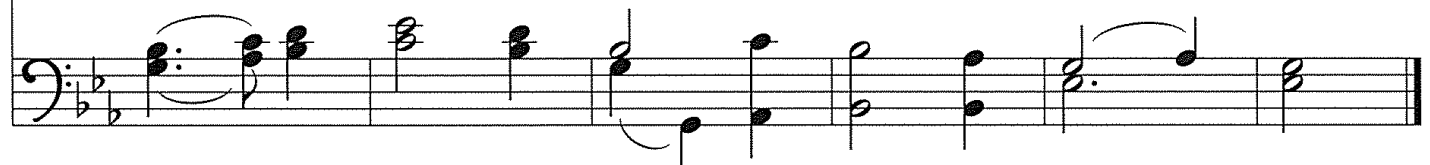
1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



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



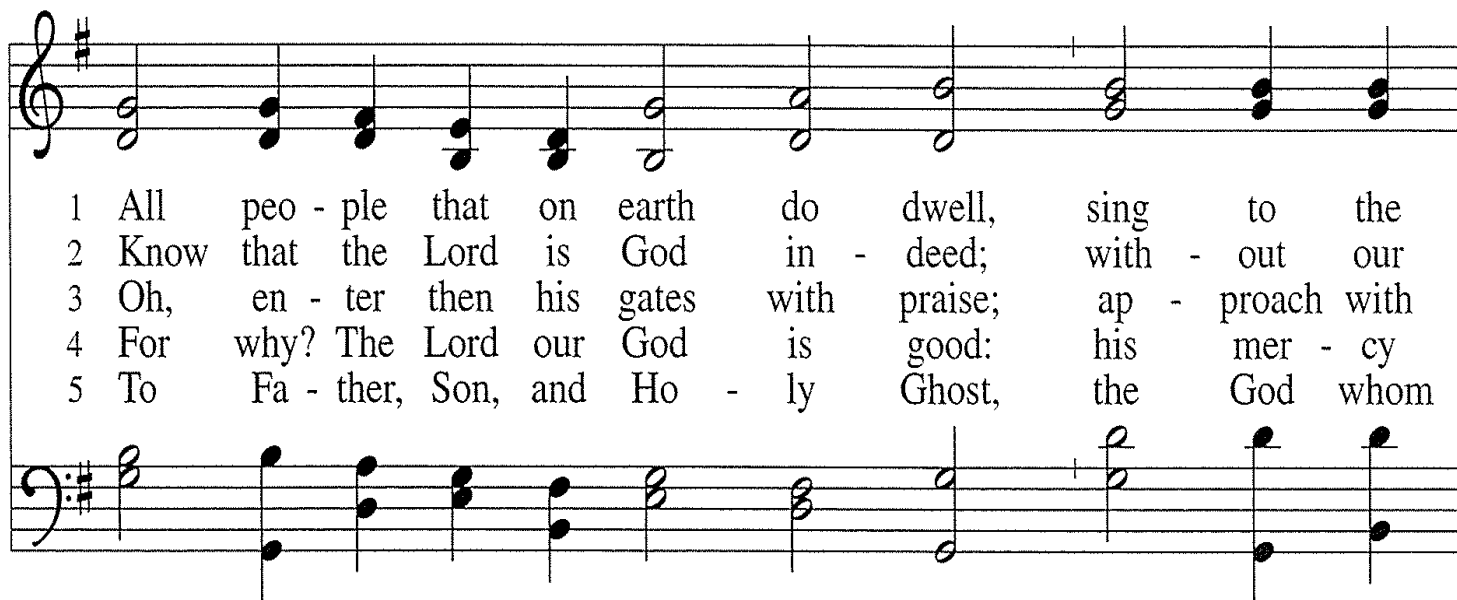
I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.



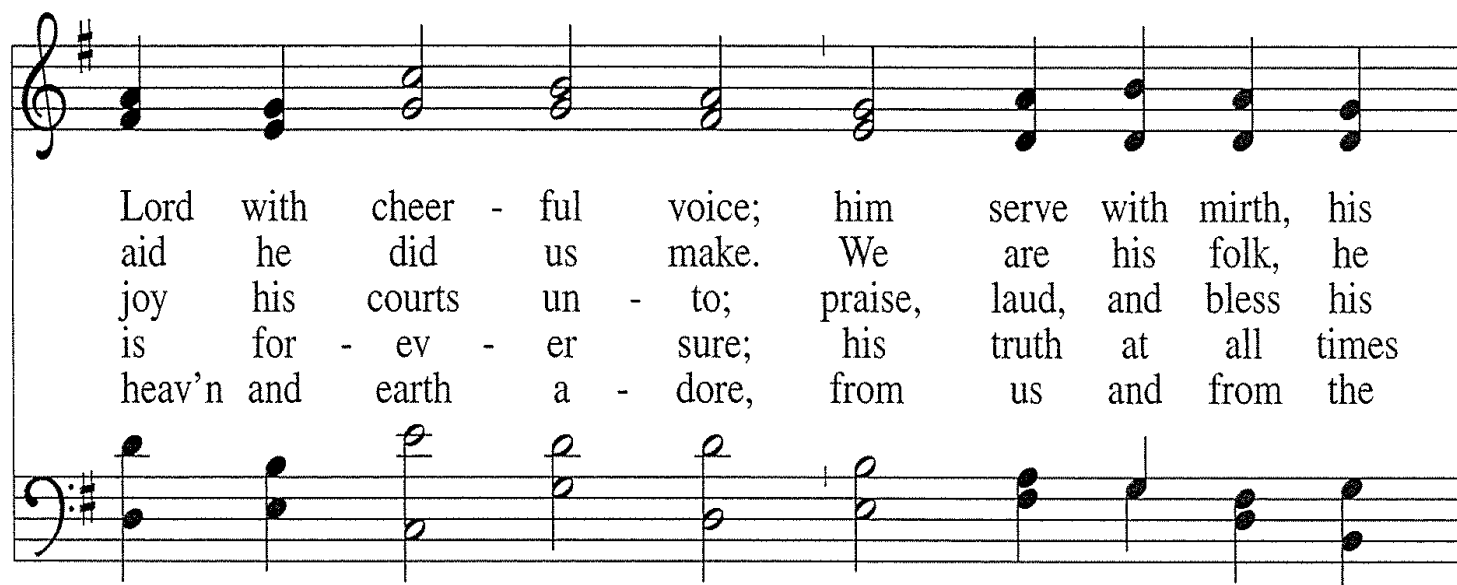
5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

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

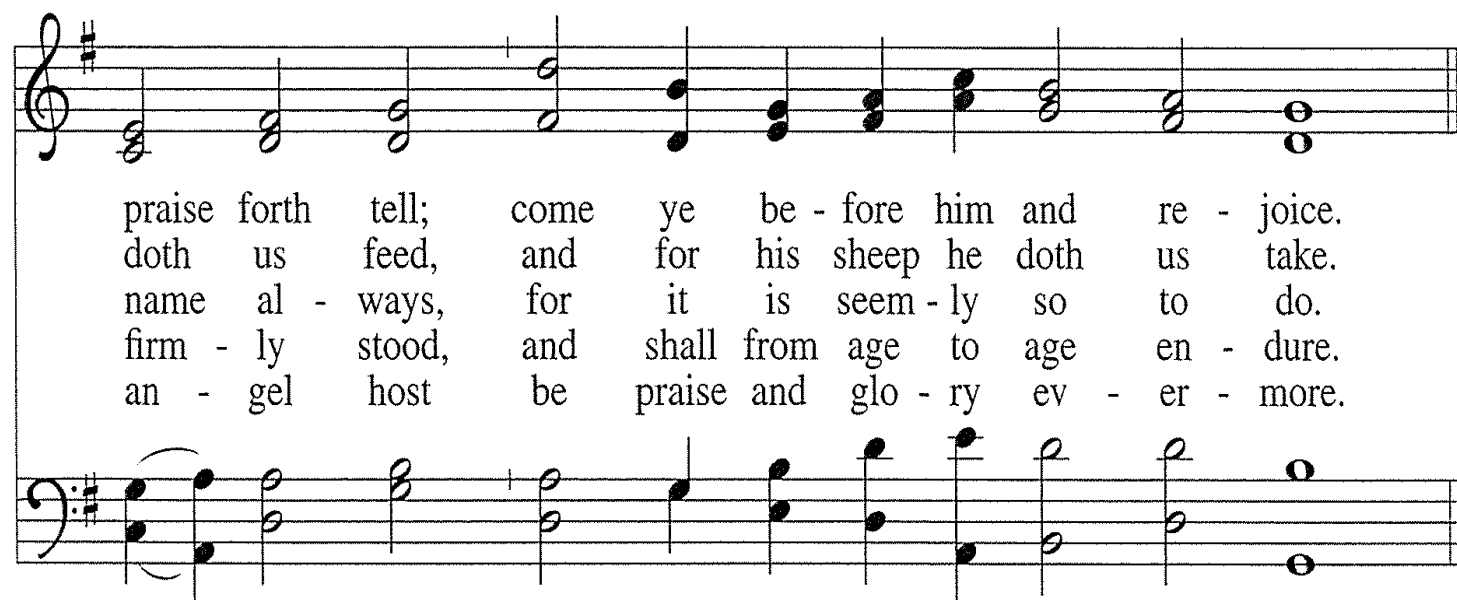
All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers:
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear.
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.



First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristine Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God by Eric Quedenfeld in honor of all the beautiful women in his life—Heather, Rexanna, Caroline, Ariane, Anna, Marie, and Rexanna M. Enjoy the beauty and blessings in every day.

The Lay Reader is Kimberly Grewe.

Acolytes are Heidi Walsh and Denico Walsh.

Counters/Greeters today are H. Quedenfeld and S. Rea.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Monday at 6 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2023 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2023. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2023. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.
Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Janet Burke, Eveline Reihner, Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, baby Ryan, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Bill Stewart, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, Tim & Karen Edwards, Tom Liam, Gary, Daniel, Judy Dombrowsky, Emily Buchleitner, Greg Mason, Alexandra Perry, Lu Mayne, Pat, Chaz Sands, Rev. Phil Gagnon, Jacob, Maxine Banko, Brooke, Ellen, Jacob Orr, USN, Roger, John Bartanus, Becky & Chuck, Rosemary Dittman, Marty Hebrank, Noah Walker, Janet Williams, Nathan, Mary, the Lobach Family, Pastor Grewe, Debbie, Sayward, Jim Walter, Larry and Tillie Simpson, and Jim H.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 30, 2023

"Though 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.."

-Psalm 23:4-

As I have grown in years, I find that I see Scripture in new light. Psalm 23 is no exception. It does not deny the fact that as believers and defenders of God's Word, we will indeed endure trial and hardship. Notice that the psalmist does not write: "If I should possibly walk through the darkest valley..." No, he writes, "Though I walk through the darkest valley..." It is not a matter of if we will endure trials and hardships, it's simply a matter of when we do. And when we do, then what? Well, we have no reason to be afraid, do we? And that's because we have our Good Shepherd there to guide us through, comforting us with his promise of life and salvation.

Some years ago we had a terrible storm go through our area where we lived in South Dakota at the time. Our youngest wasn't born yet, so we had a six-year-old and two-year-old at home. The power went out and everything was pitch black! My husband found some little tea-light candles. When he got the first one lit, our six-year-old son exclaimed with excitement, "Wow! I can see the whole hallway!" He was right. Just the tiniest flame from a tea-light was able to enlighten the entire pitch black hallway, bringing much comfort to our little ones.

One of the benefits of traveling through darkness is appreciating the brilliant light whenever it arrives. We sinful humans are all too quick to forget our Lord's blessings. Until... until whatever challenge or hardship comes our way. Then we remember how uncomfortable and scary the darkness can be. We cry out to God to calm our fears and help us through. He seems so far away, and yet, he is never far from us. God promises to never leave us nor forsake us. If God says it, it's true. We must trust in his promises for us. When we do, we find that even when the scary darkness comes upon us, our Good Shepherd is there, ready to help us through, guiding us toward the light once again.

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, thank you for always being with us. Forgive us when we lose sight of the power of your Light and your promise to keep us safe and close to you always. Help us to keep our eyes upon you. In Jesus' name, amen.