

# resurrection **REALity**

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## **THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING**

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday

*April 21, 2024*

## **RESURRECTION REALITY**

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the punctiliar moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

## **THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING**

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel. God bless your worship.

## **PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION**

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Adam Mueller

**Preacher**

Pastor John Hartmann

**Organist/Pianist**

Nathan Reich

**Musicians**

Gail Stoeckman, Seth Valleskey

**Usher Teams**

**8:00am:** Scott & Conner Etzenhouser, Charlie Weinstein

**10:45am:** Bruce Thomas, Bob Boschee, Clyde Brumfield

**Flowers**

The flowers on the altar this morning were given to the Glory of God by Connie McKay, in memory of husband, Warren and son, Scott.

# † ORDER OF SERVICE †

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*Greeting and welcome*

## **OPENING HYMN**

*Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep | 551:1-4*

*Stand*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# GLORY BE TO GOD

*This Is the Feast* | 938:1-2,5



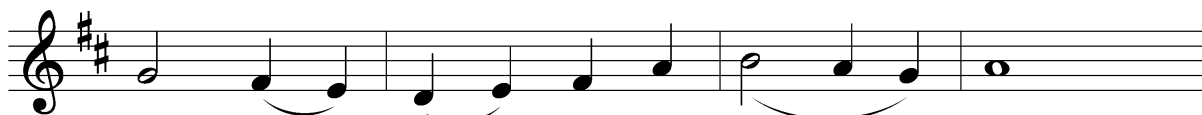
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.



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



1 & Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be-



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. *Refrain*  
gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia! *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.



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

*Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980*

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*Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 710162*



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# The Word

## **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **FIRST READING**

**Acts 20:28-32**

*The Good Shepherd asks his undershepherds to keep watch over the flock.*

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

<sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM OF THE DAY

## *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

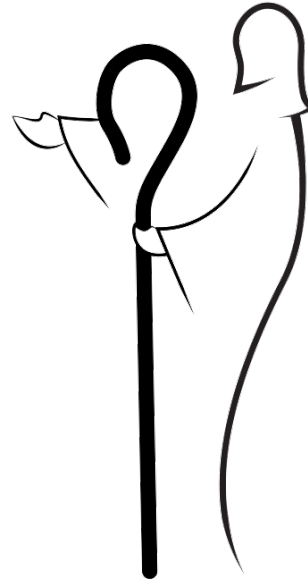
*Sung by the adult choir.*

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever. Amen!



*Music: Irish Melody Tune: St Columbia Arranged by: Mark Hayes  
Words by: Henry W. Baker (1821-1877)*

## SECOND READING

## 1 John 4:1-6

*Test those who claim to bring a spiritual message.*

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

Alleluia. I am the good shepherd;  
I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

**Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

*The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* | **555**

## SERMON

**"Our Good Shepherd Lives!"**

*John 10:11-18*

*Stand*

*I am  
the Good Shepherd*

*John 10:11*

## **NICENE CREED**

**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 in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

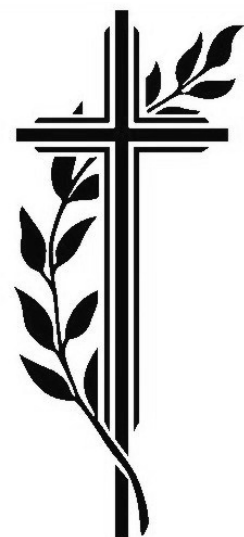
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**FRIENDSHIP REGISTER & MUSICAL OFFERTORY**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**





## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**



*Stand*

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## *The Sacrament*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**



# LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

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

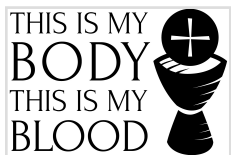
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

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

*Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman  
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*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION



*In keeping with the Bible's teaching on Holy Communion, Redeemer celebrates the sacrament with her members and those who belong to her church body, the WELS. If you are not yet a member of Redeemer or WELS, please speak with one of the pastors before communing.*

*Stand*

## **THANKSGIVING**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*I Am Jesus' Little Lamb* | **804**



- ❖ *Please reserve the pews in the back of the church for families with small children.*
- ❖ *Restrooms are located in the entrance area of the church. A changing table is available in the women's restroom.*
- ❖ *A quiet room with a window is available in the entrance area of the church and offers live audio of the service. Parents may use this room to calm a restless child.*
- ❖ *If you would like to know more about Redeemer, visit [redeemertucson.com](http://redeemertucson.com) or contact one of our pastors.*



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