

† HOME SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER †
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Youth Sunday
April 25, 2021

PRELUDE

The King of Love

Don Freudenburg

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

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

C Amen.

P Worship the Lord with gladness;

C come before Him with joyful songs.

P Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.

C We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

P Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

C For the Lord is good and His love endures forever.

OPENING HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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 forever!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, You called from death our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep. Lead us to the place of abundant life, that we may live together in love for You and one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

He Has Done Marvelous Things

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus] laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

YOUTH MESSAGE I

ALLELUIA VERSE & PSALM

Psalm 23

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

C The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 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. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my

cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Pass It On

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it;
you spread His love to ev’ryone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,
That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it;
you want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found,
you can depend on Him, it matters not where you’re bound.
I'll shout it from the mountaintop, I want my world to know;
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

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YOUTH MESSAGE II

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Alive in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers to God, who promises to hear and answer in steadfast love.

P Loving Shepherd, You call us to be Your own. Strengthen Your people wherever they are found, that we may all witness to Your great love and faithfulness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Gracious Shepherd, You provide green pastures and still waters to sustain us. Restore the goodness of creation so that it may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Good Shepherd, You have called all nations to be part of Your flock. Fill our leaders and rulers with the passion to serve, and give them joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Abiding Shepherd, You teach us how to live as Your children. We give You thanks for the blessing of our young people, for the families that have nurtured them, and for the wonders that You have in store. Help us love one another and grow continually in faith and wisdom. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Shepherd of Life, You restore us to wholeness. Comfort those who are in distress. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Eternal Shepherd, in the assurance of resurrection hope we remember our loved ones who have died in faith. Bring us, with them, to dwell in Your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P These and all our prayers we lift up to You, O Lord, trusting in Your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Special thanks to our youth participants in today's service:

Youth Speakers

Marco Renzo
Lorelei Heath

Lectors

Ingrid Krawiec
Henry Podoll

Youth Singers

Joshua Gleason
Zachary Gleason
Audrey Heath
Lorelei Heath
Henry Podoll
Nora Podoll

Hannah Pitman, Director

HOME WORSHIP VIA LIVE STREAM

This week is our final pre-recorded home service. **As of May 1**, we will start live-streaming all of our worship services from the sanctuary. The live stream can be accessed through the home page on our website (VLC-NY.ORG) or Facebook Live.

Tune in to one of our live services (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 am) or view an archived copy at a later time. As we emerge from the pandemic, this system will provide an ongoing in-home option whether you are absent for health reasons, bad weather, travel, or the like. It will also allow anyone who is not in the area to take part virtually in our worship and special events such as First Communion, Confirmation and holiday services.

Please be sure to alert your friends and family to this new option and invite them to join us any time.

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