

Historic Scripture Lessons for Easter-4 † Good Shepherd Sunday

The  LORD  is  my  Shepherd;  I  shall  not  want.

Old Testament

Ezekiel 34:11-16 NIV "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them. 12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after My sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. 14 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I Myself will tend My sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Epistle

I Peter 2:21-25 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an Example, that you should follow in His steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He

made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in His Body on the Tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Gospel

John 10:11-18 "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 "I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me - 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father - and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 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. 17 The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life - only to take it up again. 18 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."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
Easter-4 *Misericordias Domini* † *Good Shepherd Sunday*



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✧ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✧ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

April 22nd, 2018 ✧ Easter-4 Sunday - Good Shepherd

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **Blessed Easter to you!**

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) hymnal at p.5.

Service		
Opening Hymn	431 (6v)	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Psalm 145	Ps.145 "4v"	I Will Praise Your Name, My King & God
Hymn of the Day	368 (4v)	The LORD My Pasture Shall Prepare
Offertory Verse	648 (3v)	I Am Jesus' Little Lamb 7
Third Hymn	627 (5v)	Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd
Closing Hymn	436 (5v)	The LORD's My Shepherd I'll Not Want

Suggested Bible readings for weekdays after the 4th Sunday of Easter

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ezek.36:1-15	Ezek36:16-32	Ezek36:33-38	Haggai2:2-9	Zech.2:1-13	Zech11:1-17
John 6:60-71	John 7:1-13	John 7:14-24	John7:25-36	John7:37-53	John 8:1-11

PROPERs for EASTER-4 GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APRIL 22ND

INTROIT The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. Alleluia! By the Word of the LORD the heavens were made. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. ...from Psalm 33

COLLECT God, by the humiliation of Your Son, raised up the fallen world; grant to Your faithful people perpetual gladness, and those whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death make partakers of eternal joys; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reigns, with You and the Holy Spirit, One True God, now and forever, **C: ♪ A---men.**

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Then was the LORD known of the disciples in the breaking of bread. Alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd and know My sheep and am known of Mine. Alleluia! ...from John 10

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Ezekiel 34:11-16** The LORD promises to Shepherd His flock.

Epi. **I Peter 2:21-25** "Follow Christ's example in suffering."

Gos. **John 10:11-18** "I'm the Good Shepherd; I know you and you Me."

Psalm 23 ✧ The Good Shepherd Psalm (also on p.128 TLH)

(KJV) *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. Amen.*

NEW Psalm 145 C: ♪ I will Praise Your Name; My King and My God. (← Repeat)

TLH #648, 1. I am Jesus' little lamb, - Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, - Knows my need, and well provides me,
Loves me every day the same, - Even calls me by my name.

2. Day by day, at home, away, - Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, - Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go - Where the quiet waters flow.

3. WHO SO HAPPY AS I AM, - EVEN NOW THE SHEPHERD'S LAMB?
AND WHEN MY SHORT LIFE IS ENDED, - BY HIS ANGEL HOST ATTENDED,
HE SHALL FOLD ME TO HIS BREAST, - THERE WITHIN HIS ARMS TO REST. A-MEN.

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths.	Sad but faithful
Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Both at home.	Jim's BP spikes
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing	
Angelo Pousa (Tom & Viv Temple's friend)	Angelo battling health issues	
Jon Sawyer (Andrea)	Jon Sr had a (double) heart stent surgery April 5 th	
Joe Thacker (Bev Foster)	Joe is home recovering from double pneumonia	
June Weyenberg	June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery	
Don Wienke (Bev)	Don had a bad cold and flu - hopefully is over it	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Barb Wolkens	Ethel & Steve Wendt
Treaters	Ilene & Alex Gourley	Joan Patrick

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	22 / (21)	26 / 22
Bible Class Attendance: Sun/Wed	7 / 3	7 / 5
Last Sunday Offering & YTD	\$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, April 22 nd	8:30 am	Bible Study - Heritage Hymns ELH #4
Easter-4 - Jesus is The Good Shepherd	9:30 am 10:45 ff...	Divine Worship (No Communion) "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!
Wednesday, 4/25	6:00 pm	OSL Bible Study Phar.&TaxMan Parable
Sunday, 4/29	8:30 am	Bible Study - Heritage Hymns ELH #4
Easter-5 Cantaté Worship The LORD	9:30 am 10:45 ff...	Divine Worship (W/ Communion) "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Our Savior Elders are: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with your concerns.

Two church piggybanks here are for Indian ophans. A little goes a lonnnnnng way.

April 22nd ♠ ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018



In 1927, the ELS voted to take over the ownership and operation of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. The school was established in 1911 as Bethany Ladies' College and became available for purchase the previous year. An association was formed first to acquire the college. The price was \$90,000, and carried with it an immediate payment of \$20,000. The fifteen acre campus was valued at \$400,000.

Next Sun. 4/29 Cantaté = Easter-5 (p.15 L.S.) Hymns 11 204 441.1,2 387 15

EASTER4(B) GoodShepherd John 10:11-18 "HE'S MY GOOD SHEPHERD" 04.22.18

I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me - just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father - and I lay down My Life for the sheep. v.16

GENTLE SHEPHERD Of all the images of Jesus the Scriptures give us, the most gentle and comforting one is today's - the **Good Shepherd**. The old Latin name for Good Shepherd Sunday was **Misericordias Domini** - The Merciful Heart of the Lord. David, the shepherd who became king, wrote that wonderful **Psalms** by the Holy Spirit. "*Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing.*" We sing as sheep of the Good Shepherd that little song from childhood:

*TLH #648 I am Jesus little lamb; - Ever glad at heart I am.
For my Shepherd gently guides me - Knows my need and well provides me
Loves me every day the same - Even calls me by my name.*

SHEEP/PET The image of sheep with their shepherd is one maybe not so quite near and dear to our experience here in America. Sure, you may find cows grazing in fields in USA, but sheep are harder to find. Even if you were to find a flock of sheep, it wouldn't resemble a Middle Eastern shepherd with his flock. You need to think more along the lines of how it is with **you and with the family pet** - that will be a bit closer to the "Merciful Heart" of the Good Shepherd.

LEADS IN PATHS... The Good Shepherd **literally lays down His life for the sheep**. They are His life. He brings them out to green pasture. He leads them to fresh pools of water. He sets them upright when they've fallen down and can't pick themselves up. He leads them along well-worn paths, through places sheep don't naturally want to go, the dark valleys where predators abound. **Where the Good Shepherd leads, the sheep will follow in trust**. He feeds them, anoints their wounds and sores, cares for them, even pampers them. And at night, after the flock is safely tucked in their pen, the Good Shepherd lays down at the entrance to become like a door. If anyone wants to get to the sheep, they'll have to get through the Him first.

NO HIRED HAND A shepherd is **not** a hired hand, who runs off at the first sign of danger. For the hired hand, it's **only a job and a paycheck**. But the Shepherd lives for the sheep. They are His own, like a family. He defends them. He calls each of his sheep by their name, as we do our pets, and they hear His Voice and follow only that voice and no one else's. That's what Jesus is for us. The Good Shepherd **Who laid down His life in order to save us**.

HISTORY Jesus was born in **Bethlehem, a shepherd's town**, the birthplace of His ancestor **David, the shepherd-king** of Israel. The **first to worship Him** were shepherds from Bethlehem's field. Though Jesus grew up in a carpenter's house, Shepherding was His true Vocation. When

Jesus says, "*I am the Good Shepherd*," He is identifying Himself with Jehovah, David's Good Shepherd God.

WE ARE HIS To say Jesus is our Good Shepherd is also to say that "*we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.*" That proves **troublesome to our egos**. While it's nice of think of Jesus as our Shepherd, we might desire something a bit more flattering to ourselves than the image of sheep. Sheep are stubborn, often mean, prone to wandering. **Isaiah** says, "*All we like sheep have gone astray, everyone has turned to his own way.*" We don't like to stay close to the flock.

SHEEPDOG ELDERS Fellow pastors almost all note with frustration how prone believers are to **wandering**. (Pastor, by the way, means shepherd; that makes a congregation a flock.) One of the greatest frustrations of pastoral work is the constant wandering. **Shepherds have sheep dogs** whose job it is constantly to circle the flock, keeping the strays in line. I guess those are the **elders** of the congregation. We pastors need this reminder that shepherding involves a lot of chasing after strays and lost sheep.

WANDERERS We all are prone to wandering. (Like dumb sheep) It seems to just be our nature. We'll drink from any putrid, polluted puddle that promises refreshment - religions, philosophies, self-help fads. We'll sample any weed in the pasture that looks tasty, no matter how poisonous it might be. We'll wander off on our own, thinking we can go it alone. American breeds of (people-)sheep are particularly prone to wandering. We are, after all, a nation that admires rugged individuals - the self-made man, the single mom who does it all by herself. **Just me and God**, thank you very much. Who needs a congregation, or a pastor, other people, when you can do it yourself and dial direct and get all the religion you need off the internet or TV? Remember, the lone sheep, the **isolated Christian, is easy pickings for the wolves**.

O.S. All this waywardness comes from the **original sin** of wanting to be **gods** in place of God and sticking our hand into the middle of the garden to pluck fruit that brought death instead of life. You and I have that same inborn tendency and it shows itself in our spiritual restlessness, our boredom at the Good Shepherd's Table, our continual flock hopping from one church to another, our itch for the novel and exciting over the well-worn ruts of righteousness.

NOT ALONE Left to our own we'd be dead sheep, devoured by the wolves. Had the Son of God not joined the flock by becoming man, we would be doomed by our own sin and death. But this is "**the heart of**" the merciful heart of God, the Good Shepherd. He became one of us. The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us, the way a shepherd dwells among his flock. God didn't sit there on a throne in Heaven somewhere saying, "*They sure look lost; I hope they find me.*" Jehovah, the original Good Shepherd, joined the flock. "**I Myself will be the Shepherd of My sheep**," God said

through the prophet **Ezekiel**. God didn't leave shepherding His flock to hired hands. **He sent His Son Jesus**, to **seek and save** the lost, to gather the scattered, to be the Good Shepherd Who **lays down his Life** for His sheep.

LAYS HIS LIFE DOWN In His death on the Cross, **Jesus did just that**. He laid down His Life for a world of lost sheep. Lifted up on the Cross, He **drew all to Himself**, gathering a sinful, damned humanity in the embrace of a loving Shepherd God Who's willing to suffer and die **to save the unsalvageable**.

(PSALM 23) **YOU AND I are sheep of the** crucified and Risen Good Shepherd. He pastures you in the green pastures of His **Word**; He leads you to the quiet waters of **Baptism**; He restores your soul, raising you from death to life in Him. He guides you in the paths of righteousness, the way of repentance, daily dying and rising, for His Name's sake. Even though you walk every day through the dark valley called the "Shadow of Death," where threats to your life are all around you, where death and the grave loom large over you, you need fear no evil. Good Shepherd Jesus has gone ahead of you through suffering and death to Resurrection and glory. Your Shepherd lives and in Him you live too. The grave couldn't hold Him, and it can't hold you either.

HE IS *IN* YOU He is with you, comforting you with His Word and Presence. He **prepares a Table** for you, the meal of His sacrifice, **His own Body and Blood** which He offered up once for all to pay for your sins, He gives you as food and drink on the banquet Table of His Altar. Nothing can harm you in His presence. *"There is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus."*

C&A He anoints your head with healing oil, forgiving your sin, in general and in specific, in a corporate way and in a private, personal way. I see here a nice image of personal **Confession and Absolution**. A shepherd will give the sheep a flea bath, like a **corporate** absolution. But he will also **apply individually a healing balm to the troublesome sores and spots** that could easily become infected if left unattended. You are forgiven **in general, all the sins with which you have ever offended God, and also in specific - those sins that trouble you the most**. That's why we must never let private confession slip by the wayside or "go out of fashion." Forgiveness, like sin itself, is **both general AND specific**.

SURELY... At the end of this day, and at the end of your days, you can say with **David**, *"surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."* Like a couple of **sheep dogs nipping** at your heels, our Lord's **goodness and mercy** will dog you every day of your life, reminding you that the Lord is your Shepherd and you are His sheep. And at The End of it all, there's a promise held in trust just as sure as Jesus crucified and Risen from the dead is sure: **You WILL dwell in the House of the Lord FOREVER**.

In the Name of YOURS AND MY personal Good Shepherd, Amen. SDG

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.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL 
(Easter 3) *Misericordias Domini*  *Good Shepherd Sunday*



Possible Prayer of the Church  **Good Shepherd Sunday**  **April 22nd, 2018**

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible silence) In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.***

For the gifts of **divine peace and pardon**, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the **renewal of the Church**, that the Heavenly Father would make all the Baptized joyful witnesses of the Savior's resurrection victory, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the **government** and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy**

For an **end to abortion** in our land and that our nation might again come to value every life from conception to natural death as a priceless gift of God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who **do not know the Good Shepherd**, that they be brought to saving faith and come to experience with us the joy of living under His watchful eye, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely, the afflicted, those in prison, those persecuted for the faith and all the sick, [*especially OSL Prayer List*], that the Holy Spirit would comfort them and grant them strength and healing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who pass through the **valley of the shadow of death**, that in the companionship of their great Good Shepherd and in the confidence of His Victory over death and the grave, they may fear no ill, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and who dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore, let us give thanks and praise, asking that we together with them may look forward to the joy of our resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Lord's Prayer...**