



Good Shepherd Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024
Canoga Park Lutheran Church
7357 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park, CA
818-348-5714 www.cplchurch.org

AS WE GATHER

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

♪ Abide With Me ♪

♪ Goodness of God ♪

♪ Reckless Love ♪

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen

OPENING SENTENCES John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48

Pastor: Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

People: Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.

Pastor: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

People: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

People: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

People: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 23 and New Testament

(we speak responsively; WE ALL SPEAK; Reader Speaks)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT . . . *"I AM the Good Shepherd," [said Jesus Christ] "the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES, HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS . . . *"Whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst; but the water that I give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life."*

HE RESTORES MY SOUL . . . *"Take My yoke upon you & learn of Me; for I am meek & lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your soul."*

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE . . . *"I AM the Light of the World whoever follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

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 . . . *"Because I live, you shall live also. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES. THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL, MY CUP RUNNETH OVER . . . *"To him who overcomes, I will give to eat of the Tree of Life - which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER *"In My Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.*
AND I WILL COME AGAIN AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF, SO THAT WHERE I AM - THERE YOU MAY BE ALSO."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God



EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11–18

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our

salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON SONG

♪ Home ♪

SERMON

“ No Fear! ”

Psalm 23 & John 10

POST SERMON SONG

♪ Great Is Thy Faithfulness ♪

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others. Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His under shepherds and all who care for His flock.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, [especially . . .].

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: For all the things we don't know how to pray for, for those things that burden us, stress us out, and keep us awake all night; for the prayers where we don't even have the words to say, hear those prayers as we pray as the Lord 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.

BLESSING

*Pastor: 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.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG **♪ Because He Lives ♪**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS **♪ I Need Thee Every Hour ♪**
♪ Amazing Love ♪

BENEDICTION

*P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.*

C Amen

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Church **C**hrist!

