

Liturgy for Sunday May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Notes on the Worship Service

+ Bishop Aitken has given all our Rostered Ministers the weekend of May 1-3 off in honor of their faithful work and tireless efforts at ingenuity during the “Stay at home” period. This liturgy and sermon is for use in congregations across the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. It was videoed at Knife River Lutheran Church, Knife River, Minnesota. Preacher is +Bishop Tom Aitken, Assisting Minister is Pr. Susan Berge (Pastor at Knife River Lutheran) and pianist is Carol Carlson. Staff Administrative Assistant Sarah Roe videoed and put together the service. An accompanying written Liturgy is provided for your use and you are encouraged to sing along with the music, read the Psalm together, sing the responses to the prayers of the church, and provide an offering for the ongoing ministries of your congregation. Bishop Aitken reminds us all to continue to stay in place, and worship with your congregation’s or a neighboring one’s online worship services until further notice. God’s peace to all of you during this continued pandemic.

Announcements

Prelude

Order of Worship

Bishop: Invocation

Confession/Absolution

Bishop: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +One God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Bishop: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

All: Glory to God (sung together) (pg. 139)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Bishop: O God our Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 23 A Psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

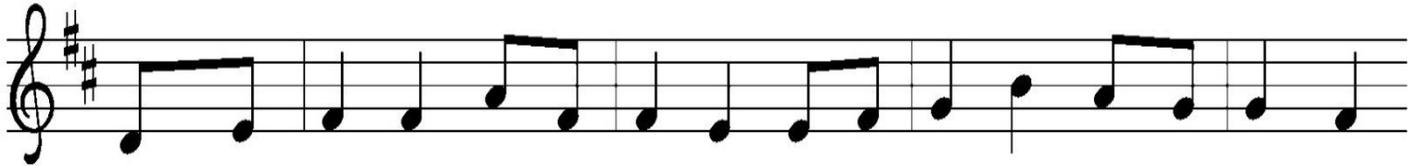
Gospel: John 10:1-10

¹‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

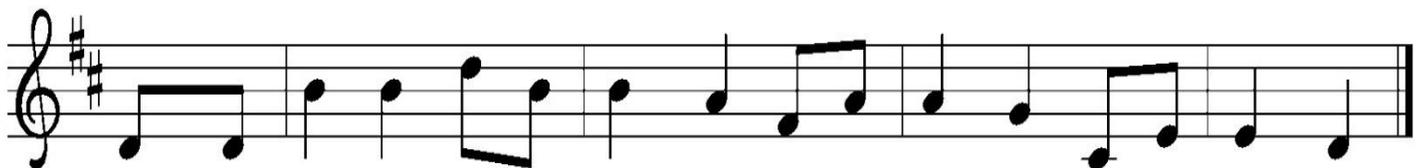
⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Sermon: Bishop Thomas Aitken

Children of the Heavenly Father

Truggare kan ingen vara

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Note: After each petition, all sing together “Shepherd me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life” ELW #780

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING Please give your offering to your local congregation's ministries

Hymn: **Now the Green Blade Rises** **ELW #379** (verses 1,4)

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,
wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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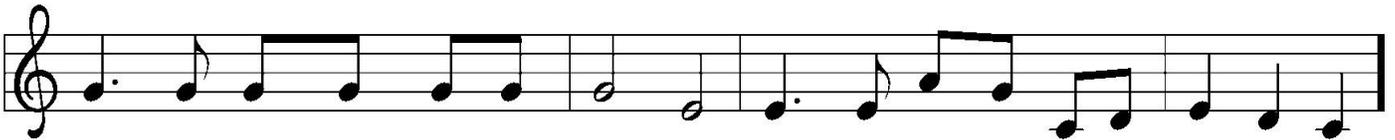
Benediction

Bishop The God of all grace, +Bless you now and forever, Amen.

Closing: Hymn: "God be with you till we meet again" ELW #536 (verse 1,2)



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
put un-fail - ing arms a - round you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

Dismissal

Bishop: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

ALL: "Thanks be to God"