

*I am the good shepherd;  
I know my sheep and  
my sheep know me  
—John 10:14*



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114 E. Blue Earth Ave.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:45am

[www.shepherdofthelakes.net](http://www.shepherdofthelakes.net)

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 25, 2021**

## *Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes*

We're here to shepherd Christ's flock and seek the lost sheep by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Come, let us worship!

### *For Your Convenience...*

A room for any parents with children in need of a quiet place is located just outside of the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are located in the hallway toward the front of the sanctuary. Please ask if you have any further questions or concerns..

### *Prayer before worship*

Heavenly Father, as I worship you today, curb my wandering thoughts. Speak to my heart. Encourage me with your Word, that my faith is strengthened, my confidence and hope renewed, and I am recommitted to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen.



# SERVICE of the Word



Pg. 38 in Christian Worship

*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

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**OPENING HYMN: CW 163**.....*Welcome, Happy Morning*

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GREETING**

**M:** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **CONFESSION**

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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 him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 20:28-32**

<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. Then Jehoiada the priest posted guards at the temple of the Lord.

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** Psalm 23 (*on p. 72 in the front of your hymnal*)

### **SECOND LESSON: 1 John 4:1-6**

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<sup>[a]</sup> of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that  
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*PLEASE STAND*

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 10:11-18**

<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 and does not own 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.”

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 375.....***The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

## **SERMON**

*PLEASE STAND*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

**OFFERING** *Offerings can be placed in the offering plate in the back of our sanctuary. They can also be mailed to our church office at **114 E. Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031** or made on our website under the "Donate" tab at the top of the homepage or taken to Profinium Bank in Fairmont*

**To our visitors:** *Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. The members of Shepherd of the Lakes have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. As our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

**HYMN: CW 436**.....*Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*

PLEASE STAND

**PRAYER**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation,  
and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**THE BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



PLEASE BE SEATED

**CLOSING HYMN: CW 432**.....*I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

## Notes and News for April 25, 2021

**Cedar Park Fellowship**— After Bible Class today, everyone is invited to come to Cedar Creek Park for some great time together! Everyone can bring their own lunch and lawn games and other games and entertainment will be provided! You may also want to bring a lawn chair to watch the lawn games! We will plan on meeting about 12:30pm to give everyone time to gather lunch and meet at the park! Should weather not permit us to meet at the park, join us in the fellowship hall for some fun entertainment by the Christian comedian, Tim Hawkins!

**Quarterly Update and Voters Meeting**—After our service today and before Bible Class we will have a congregational update. A voter’s meeting will take place a week from today after our service on May 2nd.

**Mens Saturday Morning Bible Breakfast**—May 1st is already the first Saturday of the month. All men are welcome to join us on the 1st at The Ranch at 8:00am for breakfast and Bible Study

**YouTube Live**—Thanks to all the work from our Tech team who has been able to begin streaming our services live on YouTube. To watch us live on YouTube, simply go to our YouTube page and watch our service stream at 9:30am. Pastor will get a link to our YouTube page on our website.

### Coming Up this Week

**Today 4/25**.....Worship 9:30am  
Bible Class 10:45am  
Sunday School 10:45am  
Fellowship Time 12:30pm

**Monday 4/26**.....Weeknight Bible Class 6:30pm

**Wednesday 4/28**.....6th Grade Confirmation 4:30pm  
7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:00pm

**Saturday 5/1**.....Men’s Saturday Morning Bible Breakfast 8:00am

**Sunday 5/2**.....Worship 9:30am  
Bible Class 10:45am  
Sunday School 10:45am