

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2020



The Good Shepherd

*Kelly Latimore, Commissioned by Ted and Katherin Foster for The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Athens, OH. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57121> Original source: <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/contact/>.*

## Welcome and Worship Announcements

Prelude

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

M. Searle Wright

*The congregation stands*

### Invocation

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

**Amen.**

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Kyrie

“Lord, Have Mercy”

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## Canticle of Praise

“This is the Feast”

**This is the feast of victory for our God, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated*

## First Reading

**Acts 4: 5-12**

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

## Psalm 23

Spoken by all

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## Second Reading

**1 John 3: 16-24**

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And 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. All 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.

*The congregation stands*

## Gospel

**John 10: 11-18**

The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated*

**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The congregation stands*

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Peace

Offering

Offertory

“The King of Love”

Healey Willan

*The congregation stands*

**Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Proper Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.  
That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**





## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The congregation is seated*

## Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation stands*

## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

## Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

John Turner

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

10 North Liberty Street · Asheville, North Carolina, 28801  
(828) 253-0043 · [www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://www.stmarkslutheran.net)

## **Ministers**

The People of God at St. Mark's

## **Staff**

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith  
[pastormatt@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:pastormatt@stmarkslutheran.net)

Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation: Deacon Kathryn Rivers  
[deaconkatie@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:deaconkatie@stmarkslutheran.net)

Cantor: David Anderson  
[cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net)

Parish Administrator: Scottie Miller  
[admin@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheran.net)

Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry  
[pastorlinda@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:pastorlinda@stmarkslutheran.net)

Facilities Manager: Steve Henry  
[facilities@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:facilities@stmarkslutheran.net)

## **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

## **Our Mission**

Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith, serving all people

## **Our Vision**

Transforming lives through God's grace as an inclusive, intergenerational congregation  
in Worship, Outreach, Learning, and Fellowship.

Liturgical texts and images from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) © Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under license #SAS006951