

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Unlike the community in our First Reading today, we cannot share direct fellowship nor the "breaking of bread" this Sunday. But we *can* share the "apostles' teaching" — which is the scripture — and we *can* share the prayers! If you are able, do read and pray these materials together with our whole community **on Sunday, May 3, at 10am**. If you wish, Pastor Linman's sermon is available to be read or to be watched. Music from Barbara Verdile is also available to listen to, to pray by, or to help you sing. All of these can be found on the church website (www.relcarlington.org), in the RELC news email you received, or on the YouTube channel you can access through any of those means. Some of you receive these materials by post. If you do not but would like to so receive them, do contact our church administrator, Monika Carney, at the church office.

Easter continues. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may wish to light a candle near where you pray, perhaps the candle you have lit throughout Easter.

One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:
Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>*

PSALM 23

- ¹The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.
- ³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though 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.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

There are lots of “thieves and robbers” about. That is, there are church leaders who do not present the gospel and there were political leaders who serve only themselves. The Bible calls such leaders “false shepherds.” But in the Bible the Good Shepherd, the one who gathers the flock and does not misuse or kill them, is God. In his death and resurrection, Jesus — who is called the Lamb of God — becomes our Good Shepherd. By his wounds we were healed. In the current valley of death he is with us. In the scriptures, as in the preaching of faithful pastors and the witness of each other, we hear his voice, calling us by name, and turning us again, as well as we can now, toward people in need.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Easter 3 sermon.

It may be found on Constant Contact, on the RELC website, or at

<https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

HYMN OF THE DAY #782 “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:

Penned up in our homes but united in the one flock of believers, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need, asking God our Shepherd for the restoration of all things.

A brief silence.

For the church, O God, we pray: that we will hear and follow your voice calling to us in the word; that bishops and pastors be sustained for their shepherding tasks; that churches devastated by the virus be upheld; that in this time churches find ways to continue their ministries of education and service:

A brief silence.

O God, faithful shepherd of the church, **restore our life.**

For the earth we pray: that lands and waters be renewed; that animals and plants enjoy safe growth; that rain and soil nurture the fields; that drought and floods in Yemen be averted and locusts of Kenya cease their frenzy:

A brief silence.

O God, steadfast gardener of the earth, **restore our life.**

For the nations of the world we pray: that heads of state and legislators cooperate for the good of all; that medical experts be heeded; that government moneys serve the nations' greatest needs; that during Ramadan Muslims are granted release from prejudice:

A brief silence.

O God, fearless peacemaker of the nations, **restore our life.**

For a world so economically divided, we pray: that the millions of unemployed be given food and shelter now and jobs in the future; that children find a fruitful means of education; that refugees be safeguarded from violence and prejudice; that, inspired by the early Christians, we who have means become ever more generous to those who endure great want:

A brief silence.

O God, just protector of the poor, **restore our life.**

For all in need we pray: that those afflicted with the coronavirus be cared for; that the sick be healed; that those in despair find hope; that the homebound and lonely be comforted; that medical workers be safeguarded; that those we name here, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Nathan Linman, Jack Mulloy, and . . . , receive the best possible care:

A brief silence.

O God, mighty healer of the sick, **restore our life.**

For our own desires we pray: that like the shepherds Rachel and David, each tending their father's flocks, we will be blessed for the fulfilling our tasks; and that you hear the cries of our hearts:

A longer period of silence.

O God, tender shepherd of each of us, **restore our life.**

We praise you for those who have died in the faith, remembering this week Monica, Julian of Norwich, Nicholas Zinzendorf, and those we name before you here. . . We pray that at our end, as sheep of your own fold, as lambs of your own flock, we will be gathered into your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A brief silence.

O God, gateway to life, **restore our life.**

Into your everlasting arms we commit for all whom we pray, trusting in your care for us, through Jesus Christ, our guardian and friend.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlington.org/youtube>

HYMN #780

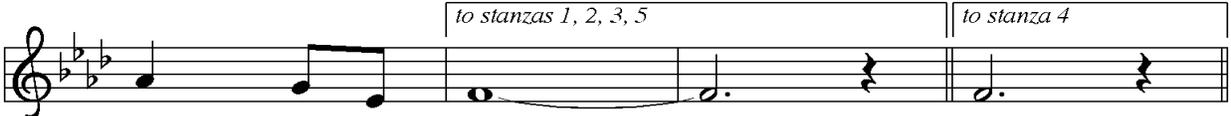
“Shepherd Me, O God”

Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead - ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban - quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha - tred, crown - ing me with love be - yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



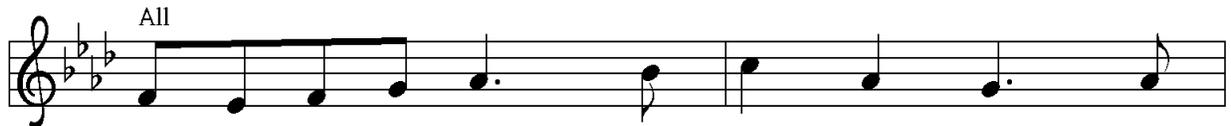
5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Then speak the Blessing:

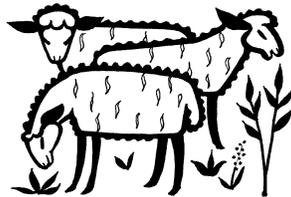
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✚ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, morning, noon or night, to celebrate that presence.

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord.
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**



Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387) Psalm 100.

Tuesday Hebrews 13:20-21. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 23:1-8. **Thursday** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16.

Friday (commemoration of Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416)

Exodus 3:1-12. **Saturday** (commemoration of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760) Jeremiah 26:20-24. **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.