



Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS! We are glad you could join us for worship today. We hope that you are blessed by the Word and Sacraments that we share. We encourage you to participate as fully as you can. The screen in front will guide you. If desired, musical notation can be found as noted in the outline below. (The “#” indicates hymn numbers in red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, and “SB” indicate page numbers in the “Song Book” pamphlet. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when we stand as we are able.)

HOLY COMMUNION WITH SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

“It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X)• “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI)• “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)•

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Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Communion, Setting Four

Accompanist: Ellen Westlund

Easter Greeting & Welcome & Introduction to the Day

778 Gathering Song *[The Lord's My Shepherd](#)* 🎵

— **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

p. 147 Greeting

p. 148 Canticle of Praise *This is the Feast of Victory* 🎵

p. 150 Prayer of the Day

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.

— **Introduction to the Readings**

p. 151 First Reading **Acts 2:42-47**

The baptized ⁴²devoted 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.

— **Psalmody** **Psalm 23**

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul

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

⁴**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.

⁵You 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.

⁶**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

p. 151 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.

— **Gospel Acclamation (Ez. 34:15; Jn. 10:14)**

p. 151 Gospel John 10:1-10

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."

— **Sermon**

764 Hymn of the Day [*Have No Fear, Little Flock*](#) 🎵

p. 104 Nicene Creed

p. 152 Prayers of Intercession

— **Offering & Offering Prayer**

184 Offering Song *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* 🎵

p. 152 Great Thanksgiving – Dialogue & Preface (Easter)

p. 153 Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* 🎵

p. 133 Thanksgiving at the Table (IV)

p. 154 Lord's Prayer

— **Invitation to Communion**

p. 154 Communion Song *Lamb of God* 🎵

— **Post-Communion Song (LBW s92) *Thank the Lord* 🎵**

p. 155 Prayer after Communion

p. 155 Blessing

— Ministry Opportunities & Announcements

— Prayers in a Time of Pandemic

544 Sending Song [*Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*](#) 🎵

p. 155 Dismissal

“The sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

LECTIO SEMI-CONTINUA (LBW)

Week of 4 Easter

Sunday

Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38

1 John 2:18-29

Mark 6:30-44

Monday

Exodus 32:1-20

Colossians 3:18--4:6 (7-18)

Matthew 5:1-10

Tuesday

Exodus 32:21-34

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 5:11-16

Wednesday

Exodus 33:1-23

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:17-20

Thursday

Exodus 34:1-17

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Matthew 5:21-26

Friday

Exodus 34:18-35

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Matthew 5:27-37

Saturday

Exodus 40:18-38

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Matthew 5:38-48

READINGS THIS WEEK (ELW)

Mon – May 4	Ezekiel 34:17-23	1 Peter 5:1-5	Psalms 100
Tue – May 5	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Hebrews 13:20-21	Psalms 100
Wed – May 6	Jeremiah 23:1-8	Matthew 20:17-28	Psalms 100
Thu – May 7	Genesis 12:1-3	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16
Fri – May 8	Exodus 3:1-12	Acts 7:1-16	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16
Sat – May 9	Jeremiah 26:20-24	John 8:48-59	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Sunday May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

MOTHERS & FATHER IN THE FAITH (UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS)

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387--Monday, May 4, 2020

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416— Friday, May 8, 2020

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303—Friday, May 8, 2020

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760—Saturday, May 9, 2020

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Agnus Day

THE LECTIONARY COMIC

The Comic Strip

Agnus Day is the only lectionary-based comic strip on the planet. You are now a part of something very cool. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh.

The Author

Agnus Day is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor. Jim serves as University Pastor at Valparaiso University, where his student charges keep him up late and his head full of big ideas.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. (Luke 24:28-29)



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

IN-PERSON WORSHIP BY RESERVATION ONLY



Like your favorite fancy restaurant, but better—the Host is Christ.

Each week, Saint John Lutheran Church is **open for worship**, but only by reservation. We are trying to maintain a maximum attendance of ten until the governor's directions change. You must call Pastor Bond (608-208-0283) in advance, and reservations are "first-come, first-served."

The pastor is the only one with the guestbook. Because you attended last week does not mean you are counted again for the next week, *unless* you contact Pastor Bond. Likewise, please let the pastor know as soon as possible if you have registered but cannot attend, so that your space might be available for someone else.

We are celebrating Holy Communion, with music accompaniment, regularly at 9:00 Sunday. If more than ten persons desire to attend at 9:00 a.m., a second worship time will be established on Sunday morning, but musical accompaniment is not guaranteed.

9:00 a.m. Sunday is also the time for the Facebook Live web-cast (www.facebook.com/sjlc.elca). A video recording of the worship service is available for viewing by Monday morning at the congregation's website, www.sjlc-elca.org, and broadcast on JATV, channel 994, one week delayed on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

I Am the Gate

As he prepared to return home near the end of three years in a state prison, the man wrote to the church where, before his arrest, he had worshiped, attended Bible study, and played guitar in the music program. While an inmate, he went to chapel and showed up at Bible study on a regular basis. He was ready and hopeful to return to his faith community. Days before his release, he received a letter from the church: “We cannot allow you to fellowship with us until our mission committee meets to decide whether to admit you.”

“I am the gate,” says Jesus, the shepherd and the bringer of life. Jesus is the one who opens the way. For all who suffer rejection—barred from entrance and denied community because of who they are, how they behave, where they come from, what they’ve done, how they look, or what they believe—it is shocking to hear Jesus say, “I am the gate, and I came to bring abundant life to all my sheep.” We may think, *Really? Me? Can it be so?*

To the religious leaders who saw themselves as gatekeepers—the deniers and allowers, the definers and approvers, the deciders and assigners—Jesus voiced his graced rebuke: “No! I am the gate, and the gate is open. All with ears listening and hearts aching for mercy, come this way. Enough of those who kill your hope, destroy your spirit, steal your worth! Thieves and bandits they are, in righteous disguise.”

And to the church, Jesus voices this nonnegotiable word: “I am the gate. The gate is open, bringing goodness and mercy to all. There are no exceptions and no exclusions. So, my sheep, pour my wine, break my bread, splash my water, serve my meal, spend my life, be my body, welcome all as my own. The gate is open.”

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