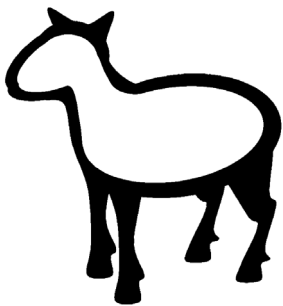


Easter 4

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

The Good Shepherd, Jesus, knows his own, and they know him. This God-in-the-flesh is the fulfillment of the shepherd spoken about by King David. Jesus calls his followers to faith and gives them a mission to share the good news near and far, in peace and unrest, to family and stranger alike. The true Shepherd King is identified by his works that exactly mirror the goodness of the Father who sent him.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Acts 20:17–35 **Paul Speaks to the Elders**
As Paul continued on his missionary journey, he yearned to arrive in Jerusalem. From Miletus he summoned the elders of the Ephesian church to come to him. He urged them to take good care of the flock in Ephesus and not to shrink from potential persecutions. Paul commended the ministry to them, certain that they would not meet again. He pressed them to remember all he had taught them.

Psalm 23 **Shepherd God**
Sheep know who their shepherd is, and they know his voice by heart. This familiar psalm reminds us that the Lord brings to us goodness, mercy, and life. We are cared for by God beyond measure, like a shepherd cares for his sheep. There is no circumstance in which God will not be present for us and with us.

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9–17 **Salvation Belongs to Our God**
In a vision, John saw an image of all tribes and nations bowing before the Lamb of God and singing his praises. As they waved palm branches before his throne, they worshiped and adored Him along with all the angels.

Gospel Reading: John 10:22–30 **My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me**
The religious leaders confronted Jesus in the temple, demanding an answer from him about his true identity. Jesus reminded them that he had already told them who he was, but they did not believe. Those who recognize his works as the works of the Father are the ones who know him and are the sheep of his flock.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- Good Shepherd Sunday is an annual post-Easter Sunday tradition in the church. What would be the modern-day equivalent of “shepherd” in our culture? Who do we know that takes seriously the tasks of watching out for others, providing, and keeping safe? In what ways might we honor those folks for answering God’s call on their lives?
- There is a reproducible map of Paul’s third missionary journey on the worship page of SOWeR for today.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness	129	---	467	378	152	152
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
Will You Come and Follow Me	---	---	---	798	---	---
The Lord’s My Shepherd	451	---	710	778	209	209
Have No Fear, Little Flock	476	---	735	764	202	202
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Children of the Heavenly Father	474	---	725	781	201	201
Come, Thou Almighty King	522	---	905	408	247	247
We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight	---	675	720	635	---	---
This is My Father’s World	554	---	---	824	34	34

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:**
- Shepherd (CCLI# 7068442)
 - Think About His Love (CCLI# 16299)
 - I Want to Know You (CCLI# 5875177)
 - All My Hope (CCLI# 7068805)
 - Shepherd of My Heart (CCLI# 4490955)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.