

**THE SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: Easter 4, Sunday 3 May, 2020. Year A**

***OPENING SENTENCES***

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 465 Praise, my soul**

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise Him for This grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious is His faithfulness.**

**3 Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Widely as His mercy flows.**

**4 Angels, help us to adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.**

## CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve your eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.**

### ***PSALM 23***

The Lord is my shepherd;  
 I shall not want.  
 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
 He leads me beside still waters,  
 He restores my soul;  
 He leads me in paths of righteousness  
 For His name's sake.  
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I fear no evil;  
 For thou art with me;  
 Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
 Thou anointest my head with oil;  
 My cup overflows.  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 All the days of my life;  
 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
 Glory to the Father and the Son

And the Holy Spirit  
 As it was in the beginning is now  
 And shall be forevermore. Amen.

***KYRIE***

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.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE*** (*sung by congregation*)

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

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to  
 be people of God.**

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

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are his.**

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

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb for ever. Amen.**

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

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

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

***GREETING AND COLLECT***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

(Let us pray that we follow our good shepherd. [silence])

Loving God, we thank you that your Son Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for your people. Open our hearts to hear his voice, to know him as he calls us by name, and to follow wherever he leads. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***FIRST READING***

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Acts, chapter 2, beginning at verse 42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***SECOND READING***

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in 1 Peter, chapter 2, beginning at verse 19

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

'He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When 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. He 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. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

## **Thanks be to God**

### ***GOSPEL***

The Holy Gospel is written in the Gospel according to St John, Chapter 10, beginning at verse 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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### ***CHILDREN’S ADDRESS***

***SONG: 602 I am Jesus little lamb (for the children)***

**1 I am Jesus’ little lamb,  
 Ever glad at heart I am;  
 Jesus loves me, Jesus knows me,  
 All things fair and good He shows me,  
 Even calls me by my name:  
 Every day He is the same.**

2 Jesus is my staff and stay,  
 Gently guiding day by day.  
 When I hunger, Jesus feeds me;  
 When I thirst, my shepherd leads me  
 Where the quiet waters flow,  
 Where the sweetest pastures grow.

3 Should I not be always glad?  
 Jesus would not have me sad.  
 When my days on earth are ended,  
 By my loving shepherd tended,  
 In His arms I then shall rest,  
 There to be for ever blest.

Weil ich Jesu Schaflein bin  
 Henriette Luise von Hayn (1724-1782)  
 Tr. William Fleming Stevenson, 1871  
 Revised, Hymnal Compilers

## ***SERMON***

### ***APOSTLES' CREED***

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth.  
 And 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, dead, and buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
 from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic\* church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*\*or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'*

***SONG: 800 May we be one***

**1 May we be one,  
bound in love for ever,  
growing close together day by day;  
growing as God fills us with his life;  
we are joined in him, he makes us one.**

**2 May we be one,  
as our Father planned it.  
May the love of Jesus make us strong,  
no one can harm us when he is near;  
he has brought us peace, he makes us one.**

**3 May we be one -  
Jesus' truth to bind us.  
With his body he unites us all;  
dying our death he restores our life;  
living with us now he makes us one.**

**4 May we be one,  
sharing life together  
with the Father and his only Son.  
Now we have life in this world of death;  
heaven has begun, he makes us one.  
Heaven has begun, he makes us one.**

Robin Mann

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***

*As sheep trust their shepherd for guidance and protection, let us turn to our God in prayer, certain that he hears our voice for the sake of Jesus Christ his Son.*

Heavenly Father: thank you for calling us by the voice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Help us listen to His word, so that we may follow where he leads us.  
Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Guide all pastors as they shepherd the flock of Christ. Remove all false ways and false teaching from them. Give them the Holy Spirit that they may have passion for their service and encouragement when times are difficult. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who rule and govern, that they may be shepherds to their people, treating all with fairness and dignity. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help parents and teachers guide their children in right paths. And bring back those who have strayed from the faith. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on the dying and those who mourn. Walk with them through the valley of the shadow of death. Watch over those undergoing or recovering from surgery and help those we know to be in special need and whom we now name in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Shepherd God, you gather your sheep from all corners of the world, and do not allow even one of your flock to be lost. May we and all people hear your voice, and be gathered into the one flock of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### ***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 favour and give you peace.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: 810 Let all things now living***

**1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, his fight goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from fight into fight.**

**2 His law he enforces, the stars in their courses,  
the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise,  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
'To God in the highest. Hosanna and praise!'**

Katherine K. Davis 1892-