

Christ the King Lutheran Church

“One Family Under One King”

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Good Shepherd Sunday



May 3rd, 2020

Opening Hymn: CW 436 (vs. 1-3)

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

- 1 Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by you.
- 2 In your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from your hand.
Speak—we hear—at your command,
We will follow you.
- 3 By your blood our souls were bought;
By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow you.

Greeting and Invocation

P: We begin our service in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: In faith, God gives us the Holy Spirit who works in us both the desire to throw off the slavery of sin and the power to live a new life. We gather here to confess our unworthiness before our perfectly worthy God, to remember, be it ever so temporarily, the ways we have disobeyed him, and to receive the knowledge of our sure salvation through the light of God's holy Word and the work of Jesus Christ in life, death, and resurrection as our Savior. May the Lord renew us in body, mind, and spirit so that we may be enabled to serve him this now and always.

C: Be with us Lord, we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us join now in confessing our sins to God and asking for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have not always loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For sins of worrying and sins of selfishness, I confess. For letting anxiety get the best of me and allowing it to lead me to doubt your power and your reign over all, I sincerely repent. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

(If you are able and willing, confess to those around you some “outward sins” you have committed in front of them this past week. Share your “inward sins” with your God in personal confession. Spouses- this gives you an opportunity to model humble repentance to your spouse. Parents- this gives you a great opportunity to model and encourage humble repentance to your children. Then take some time for silent meditation.)

(At Pastor’s prompt we join:) **I am truly sorry for my sins. I have been led by your Spirit to repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

P: Forgive us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: **Cleanse me from my sins.**

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to change my sinful life.

P: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle and History of God’s Church: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

²So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{7:2}Stephen said, “Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— ⁵³you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it.”

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

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

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Children’s Message

Hymn: CW 436 (vs. 4-5)

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

- 4 Father, draw us to your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with you.

- 5 We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th’ assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with you.

Sermon Text: Gospel: John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Sermon Theme: Our Risen Shepherd Gives Us Life to the Full!

Prayer

P: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

P: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

P: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.

The Blessing- Spoken by Pastor

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: CW 432

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

- 2 Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

- 3 Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.

Christ the King Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

*Christ's love compels us to **grow in his Word** and **go into the world** spreading the good news of eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus.*