

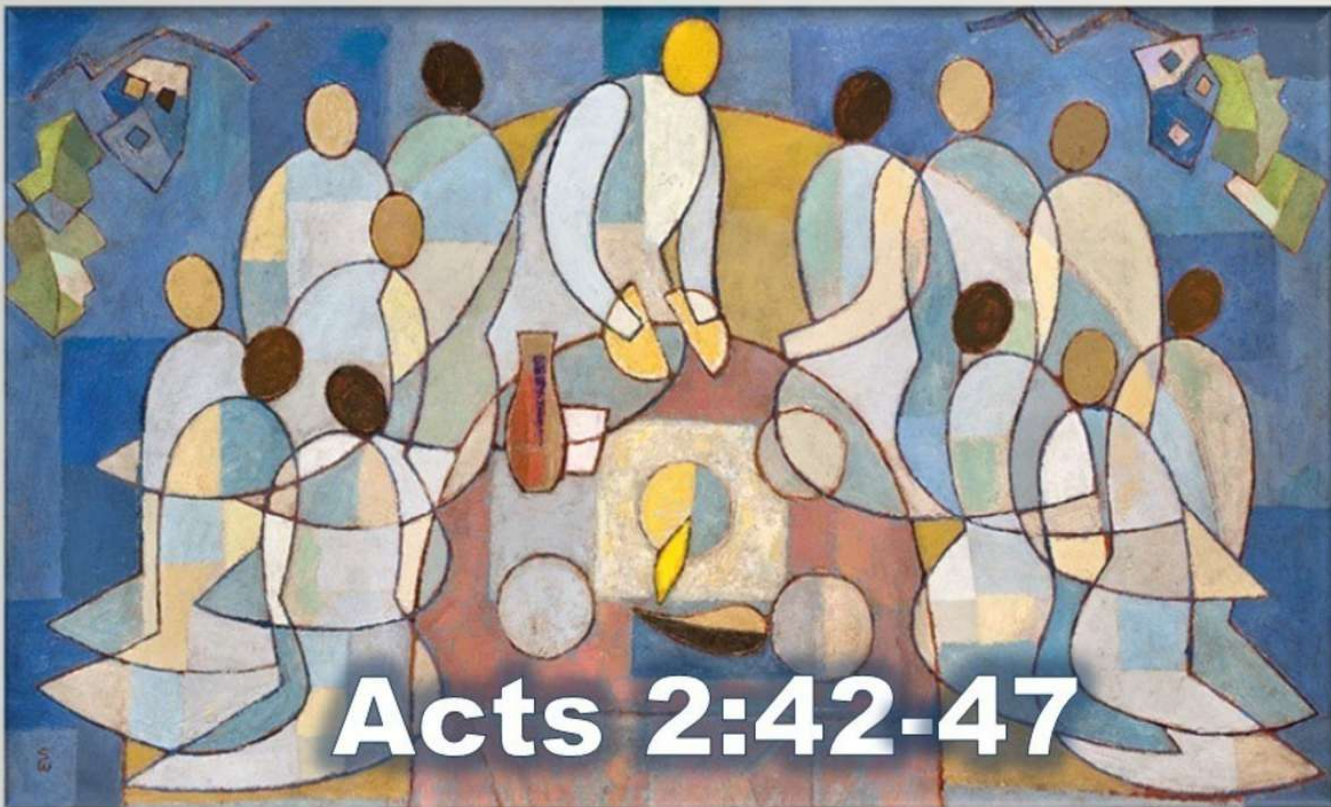
I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

**John 10:11**



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

April 26, 2026



**Acts 2:42-47**



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

The  
**LORD**

*My<sup>is</sup> Shepherd*

**I Shall Not Want**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**PSALM 23:1-3**

**WELCOME**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US**



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



## PRAY FOR: LUKE & RUTH

We pray that the ministry of Luke and Ruth and their family will bring many other families into Your fellowship.

*“...you have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children...for such was your gracious will.”*

*Luke 10:21*



**WORLD MISSION PRAYER LEAGUE**

wmpl.org

## **INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to  
come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of  
life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and  
resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of  
life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of  
baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and  
praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Gathering Song**

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**Hymn # 807**

**1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry  
blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy  
grace;**

Hymn # 807

**streams of mercy, never  
ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest  
praise.**

Hymn # 807

**While the hope of endless  
glory  
fills my heart with joy and  
love,**

Hymn # 807

**teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness  
prove.**

Hymn # 807

**2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've  
come";**

Hymn # 807

**and I hope, by thy good  
pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

Hymn # 807

**Jesus sought me when a  
stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of  
God;**

Hymn # 807

**he, to rescue me from  
danger,  
interposed his precious  
blood.**

Hymn # 807

**Final Oh, to grace how great a  
debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;**

Hymn # 807

**let that grace now like a  
fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to  
thee.**

Hymn # 807

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel  
it;  
prone to leave the God I  
love.**

Hymn # 807

**Here's my heart, oh, take and  
seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.**

Hymn # 807

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

## **Glory To God**

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.  
[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth, and peace to God's people  
on earth.*

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray

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.**

# WORD

*FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47*

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

<sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 23

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your  
name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup> 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.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**<sup>6</sup> Surely 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**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

***Alleluia.***

***Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***Alleluia.***

***You have the words of eternal Life.***

***Alleluia, alleluia.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to  
John 10:1-10

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

<sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup> The 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.**



CHILDREN'S  
SERMON

# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



## **Hymn of the Day**

**“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

**Hymn # 789**

**<sup>1</sup> Savior like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed  
us,  
for our use your fold prepare.**

Hymn # 789

*[Sung Twice]*

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us; we are  
yours.**

Hymn # 789

**2 We are yours; in love befriend  
us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend  
us,  
seek us when we go astray.**

Hymn # 789

***[Sung Twice]***

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.**

Hymn # 789

**3 You have promised to receive  
us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to  
free.**

Hymn # 789

*[Sung Twice]*

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.**

Hymn # 789

**Final Early let us seek your favor,  
early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.**

Hymn # 789

*[Sung Twice]*

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.**

Hymn # 789

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured and we remember our friends and family members before you. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary, for Liv in the Middle East, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lenore, Idaho.

Today we also pray for Hope Lutheran Church in Midland, Texas and their pastor, Becky Hand. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Amen.**

## **Canticle of Thanksgiving**

*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and  
ever.***

***<sup>1</sup> Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose  
name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy  
God!***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

# **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

## **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 in 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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and  
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you  
peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“On Our Way Rejoicing”**

**Hymn # 537**

**1 On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.**

**Christ our Lord has conquered;  
vanquished is the foe.**

**Christ without, our safety;**

Hymn # 537

**Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?**

Hymn # 537

[Refrain]

**On our way rejoicing,  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!**

Hymn # 537

**Final Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;**

**Hymn # 537**

**unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing  
now and evermore.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 537

[Refrain]

**On our way rejoicing,  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!**

Hymn # 537

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

**John 10:11**

