
WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS,
HE HAD COMPASSION FOR THEM,
BECAUSE THEY WERE
HARASSED AND HELPLESS,
LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD.
-MATTHEW 9:36



Sunday, April 21, 2024
Good Shepherd Sunday

Service Theme
**THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES
GOOD SHEPHERDING**

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

Opening Prayer

M: In the name of Jesus our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on you, dear heavenly Father:

C: Hear us for Your name's sake.

M: We approach you confidently at the beginning of this day, for we rely on Jesus, our Redeemer, for the full forgiveness of sins:

C: Receive our thankful worship for His sake.

M: By the Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and of Your will for our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and peace into eternity:

C: In You, O Lord, have we taken refuge; never let us be ashamed.

M: O Lord, our Rock and our Fortress, assure us that because you live, we shall live also:

C: In You we hope: Our praise is for You. Amen

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CW 436 - 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.**

**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.**

First Lesson

Acts 20:28-32 (EHV)

The good shepherd asks his sub-shepherds to keep watch over the flock.

²⁸“Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. ³⁰Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

³¹Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

³²“And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Psalm 23
(page 72)

Refrain

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.**

**He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Refrain

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies.***

**You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain***

Second Lesson
1 John 4:1–6 (EHV)

St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. ⁴You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. ⁵They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia

Gospel
John 10:11-18 (EHV)

Jesus explains why he is the good shepherd.

¹¹“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵(just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

Hymn

CW 375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.**

**2 Where streams of living water flow,
My Savior gently leads me;
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feeds me.**

**3 Confused and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.**

**5 You spread a table in my sight,
A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight;
My cup is overflowing!**

**6 And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever!**

Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 9:35-38 (EHV)

Theme: **The Compassion of the Christ.**

- 1) *See our Shepherds compassion for us.*
- 2) *Share his compassion with others.*

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest."

The Apostles' Creed

(Melody: CW 365 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling")

I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav'n and earth. And in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God's own Son, of human birth. Virgin born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive, suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom I believe.

Crucified, was dead and buried; Down to hell in victory; From the dead He rose the third day; Up to heaven triumphantly. There at God's right hand He's ruling, by his will the world is led. He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Spirit; in His Church, His chosen band. They are joined in sweet communion; Holy in his sight they stand. I believe in sins forgiven; I believe I'll rise again; I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Offertory Prayer

Confession and Absolution (Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, “I do so promise!”

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God’s Word says, *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”* (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: (sing) O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the

Distribution

Hymn

CW 616 - Feed Your Children, God Most Holy

**Feed your children, God most holy;
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
Jesus, bread of life from heaven,
Bless the food you here have given.
As these gifts the body nourish,
May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor
At your feast due thanks we render.**

Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

(CW page 126)

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

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

Silent prayer.

M: 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.

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.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: **Amen.**

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.



Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629

www.divinewordottawa.ca

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

April 28 – Andrew // May 4 – Peter

Long Range Planning Training

On Saturday, May 4th (from approximately 10 AM – 4 PM), Circuit Pastor Caleb Schultz will be meeting with all who are interested from Divine Word and Abiding Word for a daylong Seminar on Long Range Planning. Please let pastor Sullivan know ASAP if you are interested in attending this seminar so he can email you information as it becomes available.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (21) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)

11:45 am Evangelism Meeting

3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

4:00 pm Voters Meeting in Poltimore

Tu (23) 7:00 pm Council Meeting

We (24) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (25) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Su (28) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship

We (1) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (2) 10:30 am Longfield's Manor Devotion

6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (3) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Sa (4) *All Day* Planning Seminar at Abiding Word

Su (5) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)

3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore