
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

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Worship & Music Ministries

Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

God's Gift Service T May 3, 2020

God Gathers Us in His Name

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

*As God gathers us in worship today the only thing we are able to give Him is our sins,
and out of undeserved love for us God gives us forgiveness.*

King David wrote in the Psalms: "I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD'

— and You, [O God,] forgave the guilt of my sin."

Psalm 32:5b NIV

P Do you confess to Almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner who has sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed and therefore justly deserve His present and eternal punishment? If so, answer, "Yes."

C Yes.

P Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has lived a holy life, satisfying all the demands of God's holy Law for you, and died, shedding His blood for you upon the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins? If so, answer, "Yes."

C Yes.

P Do you ask God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of His beloved Son Jesus, to be gracious and merciful to you? If so, answer, "Yes."

C Yes.

P I have great Good News! Through His holy life and innocent death on the cross, Jesus has satisfied the holy demands of God's Law and has earned forgiveness and eternal life for us. He desires that this gift be delivered to all people. For He told His disciples on Easter evening, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. ... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:21,23 NIV

P Therefore, in the stead and by this command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and as the called and ordained servant of the Word in this place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P You are forgiven! You are set free! You are dearly loved children of God! Together you and I can now raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God for His tremendous grace. We can bring Him our fears and hopes, our needs and prayers, with all boldness and confidence as dear children do to their dear Father.

C Amen. ...

God's Gift of His Word

By ourselves we are spiritually dead.

By our own efforts we are unable to create or sustain a relationship with God.

However, out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive.

He creates and sustains a relationship with us by way of His Word, the Word of Jesus:

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

— 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

First Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

1 Peter 2:19-25

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter writes:]

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

John 10:1-10

ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John writes:]

[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to You, O Christ. ...

Sermon:

“Listen to the Shepherd's Voice”

John 10:4

Our Prayers in Response to God's Word

The following people or matters are being lifted up before the Lord:

- The CoViD-19 pandemic, including its removal, the safety and health of those not yet infected with the coronavirus; the healing of those who have CoViD-19, including Jose and a worker at the Genesis Care Center where Dale Curtice's mother resides; and granting comfort, peace, and the certain hope and joy of the resurrection to come when Jesus returns;
- The provision of help and aid to all whose lives have been upended by the restrictions imposed in the pandemic, including the provision of employment to those who have been laid off or furloughed during this time;
- Healing for all those with illnesses and injuries other than CoViD-19: Ian Thompson (hsp'd at Mercy), Dale Foltman (Donna's husband), Dale Curtice, David West, Joan Erickson, Debbie Halseid, Gretchen Versteeg, Michael Sturgeon, Doug Burke, Pat Davison, & Kathryn Sprecher;
- The Lord's blessings upon those partaking of His Body and Blood during our drive through Communion on Saturday, May 2, at 5:00 pm;
- The members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community, including Kim (MtO staff), Aaron (MtO staff), Nadia, & Morgynne Powell; Mary (MtO staff), Jeff, Luke, Julie, Drew, & Eli Dunlap; Heidi (MtO staff), Jeff (MtO Properties & Sch. Bd), Evan, Nolan, & Dylan Rains; Pat, Bob, Jack, & Kennedy Rice-Larimer; and Diana & Brady Thomsen.
- Our MtO teachers and students as they continue to finish out the current academic year online.
- Our Synod as it celebrated its 173rd birthday on April 26th and also the students at our St. Louis and Ft. Wayne seminaries as they receive their vicarage & intern assignments and deaconess & pastoral calls;
- JoAnn Roiger and her family as they grieve the unexpected death of her husband, Loren, whom the Lord took to Himself last week some time during the night of Friday into Saturday.

The prayers, silent or spoken, will be prayed now. Each prayer will end with:

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your loving hands, dear Lord, we place everyone and everything for which we've prayed. We trust You to answer our prayers according to Your mercy in the way that is best for us. We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Our Offerings in Response to God's Word – 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15 NIV

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. ... Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

You are encouraged to continue regularly giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord either online at www.molcs.org/church or by mailing them to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines IA 50310 or bringing them to one of our drive through Communion services.

Final Prayer

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, grant
that our lips which have here sung Your praise may now glorify You in the world;
that our ears which have heard the voice of our Shepherd through Your Word
may now be closed to the clamorous voice of Satan and the world;
that our eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope;
that our tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth; and
that we may be fully restored to newness of life through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.