

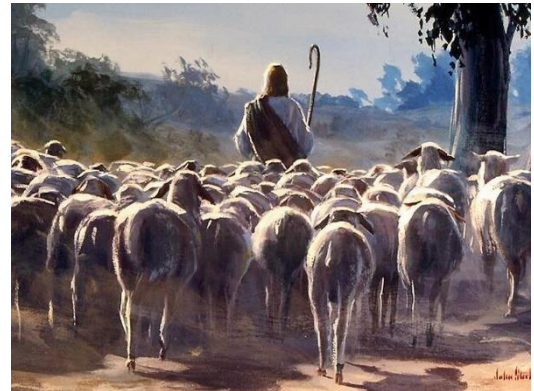
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MORNING WORSHIP  
APRIL 7, 2024**

**Prelude**    *Offertoire*    *Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)*

**Hymn #208**        *The Strife is O'er!*

**Opening Acclamation**

*Officiant*        Alleluia. Christ is Risen.  
*All*                **Christ is Risen indeed.**  
                      **Alleluia.**



**Collect for Purity and Diversity**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray together.

**Collect of the Day**

**O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**First Lesson**

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles                      *Acts 4:5-12*

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*A period of silence follows*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23** *in unison*

*Book of Common Prayer*

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

**He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

**He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**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.**

**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## **Second Lesson**

A Reading from the first letter of John

*1 John 3:16-24*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*A period of silence follows*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 664** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

## Third Lesson

A Reading from the gospel of John

*John 10:11-18*

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*A period of silence follows*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

### The Apostles' Creed

Let us stand and say together

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 the People<sup>1</sup>

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion, in thought and deed, with or without words; that the people of every nation might live in unity and peace. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in this town and the entire Upper Valley Community, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, especially those we now name silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_ that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_, rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into life as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Offertory Hymn 645 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

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<sup>1</sup> THE WAY OF LOVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Composed by the Reverend Allison English, Calvary Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/wol\\_prayers\\_of\\_the\\_people\\_final.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/wol_prayers_of_the_people_final.pdf)

## The General Thanksgiving

BCP, p101

Let us say together

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or  
imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus  
for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Hymn 518** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

**Announcements**

**Postlude** *Toccata*

*Jose Antonio Carlos De Seixas (1704-1742)*

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