

*Liturgy*

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Year A

GATHERING

*His Name Is Wonderful*

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything;  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.  
He's the Great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,  
Almighty God is He.  
Bow down before Him, love and adore Him,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

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Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!  
**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before Him with joyful singing.**

Know that the LORD Himself is God.

**It is He who made us and not we ourselves.**

**We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.**

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,  
and into His courts with praise;  
Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

**For the LORD is good:**

**His lovingkindness is everlasting;  
and His faithfulness continues to all generations.**

—Psalm 100

*I Call You Faithful*

I call You Faithful, Your name is Faithful;  
Lord, You are Faithful to me.  
I call you Faithful, Your name is Faithful;  
Faithful You are, and Faithful You'll be.  
(Repeat)

I call You Holy; Your name is Holy;  
Lord, You are Holy to me. . . .

I call You Jireh; Your name is Jireh;  
You are Provider to me.  
I call You Jireh; Your name is Jireh,  
Provider You are, and Provider You'll be.

I call You Shepherd; Your name is Shepherd;  
You're the Good Shepherd to me.  
I call You Shepherd; Your name is Shepherd;  
Shepherd You are, and Shepherd You'll be.

I call You all that; Your name is All That;  
Lord, You are All That to me. . .

CCLI Song # 402030; ©1990 Dawn Treader Music | Shepherd's Fold Music;  
Bobby Price and Kevin Walker; Donny McClurkin lyrics ("Good Shepherd" added).

*LECTIONARY for the fourth Sunday  
of Easter, Year A:*

*Acts 2:42-47*

*Psalm 23*

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

*John 10:1-10*

*The fourth Sunday of Eastertide traditionally focuses on Christ as both Shepherd and Lamb. In all three yearly cycles of the Revised Common Lectionary, this Sunday includes the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and selected verses from John 10. As we continue our observance of the fifty-day season of Easter and our contemplation of the ongoing meaning and significance of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection for the redemption of all of God's creation, our worship this week centers on Christ as the Good Shepherd and on His tender care, protection, and leading of us, His sheep.*

*Though Psalm 100 is not included in this week's lectionary, it is a wonderful, familiar call to worship that invites us to acknowledge the Lord as our Creator and Shepherd, to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise, and joyfully to declare His faithfulness and goodness.*

*I Call You Faithful is a fitting song choice for this Sunday, especially as its title and opening lyric echo the last line of the Gathering psalm ("His faithfulness continues to all generations"). We've added a verse for today's theme—"I call You Shepherd." This song is wonderfully versatile and adaptable to many worship themes, and fitting in many places in an order of worship (pre-service call to worship, Gathering, Invocation, Sending). Every two verses, the music modulates up by a half step.*

## INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

### *Come, Let Us Worship*

Come, let us worship and bow down  
Before the Lord Most Holy,  
Before the King of Glory.  
Come, and lay your burdens down  
Before the Friend who's faithful,  
Before the One who's able.

For He is our God, and we are His people.  
He is our God, and we will never be forsaken.

Come, let us lift our voice in praise  
Unto the Rock of Ages,  
Unto the God who saves us.  
Come, and glorify His name,  
All the earth together, all the saints forever.

For He is our God, and we are His people.  
He is our God, and we will never be forsaken.

For You are our god, and we are Your people.  
You are our God, and we will be with You.  
You are our God, and we will be with You forever.

CCLI Song #4241771 ©2002 sixsteps music/worshiptogether.com songs.  
Chris Tomlin, Jesses Reeves.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Jesus declared:

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

I am the good shepherd,  
and I know My own, and My own know Me,  
even as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father;  
and I lay down My life for the sheep.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;  
and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;  
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

I and the Father are one.

– John 10:11, 14-15, 27-30

**The LORD is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He guides me in the 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.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
Forever.**

– Psalm 23

*The profession of faith weaves together Jesus' declaration that He is the Good Shepherd, and His promise of eternal life through His sacrifice, with a corporate reading of Psalm 23.*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

To You, O LORD, our Rock, we call.

Hear the voice of our supplications when we cry to You for mercy,  
When we lift up our hands toward Your holy sanctuary.  
*Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;  
Shepherd them also, and carry them forever.*

– from Psalm 28:1-2, 9

[Silence]

**I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,  
for I do not forget Your commandments.**

– Psalm 119:176

[Silent Confessions]

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name;  
And deliver us and forgive our sins, for Your name's sake.  
**So we, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture,  
will give thanks to You forever;  
to all generations we will proclaim Your praise.**

– Psalm 79:9,13

*We Confess*

Almighty God, we confess our sin;  
What we have done, what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with a whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Have mercy, have mercy on us.  
Have mercy, have mercy.

Most gracious God, we have lost our way.  
Like wand'ring sheep, we have gone astray.  
We're truly sorry, and we turn back  
Now, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Have mercy, have mercy on us.  
Have mercy, have mercy on us.  
Have mercy, have mercy.

CCLI Song #6476506 ©2013 Integrity Worship Music. Glenn Packiam and Ian Morgan Cron.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word and promise of God:  
“You are My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, and I am your God,”  
declares the Sovereign LORD.  
“As a shepherd cares for his flock when he is among his scattered sheep,  
so I will care for My sheep. . . .  
I Myself will feed My sheep and lead them to rest.  
I will seek the lost and bring back what was driven away,  
bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.”

– from Ezekiel 34

Now, hear this good, good news:  
He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,  
so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
By His wounds you have been healed.  
For you were like sheep going astray,  
but now you have returned  
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

– 1 Peter 2: 24-25

**Thanks be to God!**

*The time of confession of sin brings together other passages from the Psalms that reflect the relationship of the sheep—us—with the Good Shepherd. These passages are prayers, so we speak them as corporate prayers, taking time for silent reflection and our own confessions.*

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Leader: Loving Shepherd, as we joyfully worship You in offering,  
we give You thanks:

People (refrain): **With grateful hearts, in joyful worship,  
we bring Your tithes and our offerings.**

Loving Shepherd, we give You thanks

for Your leading ... (Refrain)  
... for Your protection... (Refrain)  
... for Your sure provisions... (Refrain)  
... for Your comfort ... (Refrain)  
... for Your refreshing ... (Refrain)

*You Have Been Good*

O Lord, You have been good;  
You have been faithful to all generations.  
O Lord, Your steadfast love  
And tender mercy have been our salvation.

For by Your hand we have been fed,  
And by Your Spirit we have been led.  
O Lord, You have been good;  
You have been faithful to all generations.

For by Your hand we have been fed,  
And by Your Spirit we have been led.  
O Lord, Almighty God,  
Father unchanging, upright and holy.

O Lord, You have been good;  
You have been faithful, You have been good.

CCLI Song #59452 ©1988 Ariose Music. Twila Paris.

THE WORD

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

*There are many songs that either set or echo the text of Psalm 23—hymns such as The King of Love My Shepherd Is; Stuart Townend's setting of Psalm 23 (CCLI Song #1585970; ©1996 Thankyou Music); or Goodness Love and Mercy (CCLI Song #711450; ©2018 Alletrop Music, Capitol CMG Paragon, S.D.G. Publishing; Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Bear Rinehart, Bo Rinehart) are just a few examples.*

## THE TABLE

### Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

#### *The Lord's Prayer* (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heav'n.

Provide each day our daily needs;

Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;

And Thine is the power, forever and ever;

And Thine is the glory, now and forever,

Amen, amen, amen.

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#### *Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer.

There is no more for heaven now to give.

He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,

My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.

For my life is wholly bound to His.

Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,

For by my side the Saviour, He will stay.

I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,

For in my need, His power is

displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me,

Through the deepest valley He will lead.

Oh the night has been won,

And I shall overcome!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,

The future sure, the price, it has been paid.

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,

And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.

Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.

Oh the chains are released,

I can sing: I am free!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

*Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano.*

*It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.*

*Link:*

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

*You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.*

*Link:*

[https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music\\_library/lords-prayer-clip](https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip)

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete,  
Still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*I Call You Faithful (reprise)*

I call You Faithful, Your name is Faithful;  
You are so Faithful to me.  
I call you Faithful, Your name is Faithful;  
Faithful You are, and Faithful You'll be. (repeat)

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Bobby Price and Kevin Walker; Donny McClurkin ly

Benediction

Go forth in joy and hope to love and serve the Lord in all that you do.

**We are sent in the name of the risen Christ.**

Now may the God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the Great Shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
equip you with everything good that you may do His will,  
working in us that which is pleasing in His sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

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

– based on Hebrews 13:20-21

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“Isn't God good? Consider how He fed thousands of the people in the wilderness with bread from heaven. He prevented famine and the people didn't even need to work for it. They enjoyed rest for forty years, their clothing didn't grow old, and their shoes didn't wear out. Isn't He good? He brought earth up to heaven, so that, just as the stars reflect His glory in the sky like a mirror, the choirs of apostles, martyrs, and priests shine like glorious stars and give light throughout the world. So then, He is not only good, but is more. He is a Good Shepherd . . . to His sheep, ‘for the good shepherd layeth down his life for his sheep.’ . . . It is to my advantage to believe that God is good, for ‘It is a good thing to trust in the Lord.’ It is good to confess that He is Lord, for it is written: ‘Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.’”

– Ambrose

*Lectionary for next week:* Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10;  
John 14:1-14

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*The benediction reminds us how much the theme of the Good Shepherd is threaded throughout Scripture, and sends us out into the world to love and serve the Lord with joy and confidence in His faithfulness and care.*